

The **KINGBIRD**



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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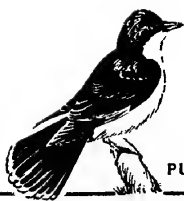
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The KINGBIRD

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*Black Brant (background bird) – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
May 22, 1976*

—J. Costa

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

25. BLACK BRANT

JOSEPH COSTA and THOMAS H. DAVIS

The Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*) breeds from northeastern Siberia east to at least Melville Island in the Canadian Arctic. In winter, it is found along the Pacific coast from Alaska to Baja California, and casually to eastern North America (J. Bull, 1974. *Birds of New York State*. Doubleday/Natural History Press. Garden City, N.Y.). The taxonomic status of this form has long been a subject of controversy, and it is often considered conspecific with the Brant (*Branta bernicla*) of the eastern Canadian Arctic and Atlantic coast (J. Delacour and J. T. Zimmer, 1952. *Auk*, 69: 84).

John Bull (*loc. cit.*) cites six occurrences of *nigricans* for New York State. Five of these birds were reported from Long Island (date span Oct. 25-March 31), and one was observed near Niagara Falls, November 13, 1949.

Two additional occurrences of Black Brant have recently been reported, both at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co. This area is a major stopover point for large numbers of migrating Brant, with peak numbers recorded during October and May. These recent occurrences are: 1) October 5-November 29, 1974 (T. H. Davis, 1975, *The Kingbird*, 25: 27); 2) May 22-25, 1976 (Max and Nellie Larson, James Ash, Thomas W. Burke, *et al.*; photographed by Joseph Costa). This bird was first spotted by Nellie Larson, whose attention was attracted by the wider white collar, not the black underparts. The Black Brant was only observed grazing with 1-2 dozen Brant on the lawn bordering the West Pond. The period May 22-25 marked the exodus of all but a small number of the thousands of Brant inhabiting Jamaica Bay since early May. One Brant remained through the summer, but alas!—the “wrong” one!

*Joseph Costa, 9446-85 Road, Apt. 4E, Woodhaven, New York 11421
and Thomas H. Davis, 9446-85 Road, Apt. 2H, Woodhaven, New York 11421.*

HURRICANE BELLE

ANTHONY J. LAURO

Hurricane Belle was first noted as the 20th tropical storm system of the season on July 28, 1976 off the northwest coast of Africa. It reached the mid-Atlantic area on July 31st.

The storm traveled across the Atlantic at a little more than 20 knots. It then moved northwestward and slowed down, reaching a position just east of the northern Bahamas on August 5th. The diameter of the storm at this time measured three to four hundred miles. Early on August 6th, the surface circulation was defined to upgrade the system to a tropical depression with maximum surface winds of 25 knots.

Intensification of this system was rather steady from August 6th through August 9th, when maximum sustained wind speed was estimated at 105 knots. At this time the storm was classified as a full hurricane.

While Belle was a tropical depression and during her first few hours as a tropical storm, her position remained about 250 nautical miles east northeast of Nassau in the Bahamas. Soon after reaching tropical storm intensity, she accelerated toward the northeast and on August 8th started northward. (See track chart below.) This direction of motion continued for the next two days during which time her forward speed increased to between 20 and 25 knots.

Finally, landfall was made early on August 10th (0100 EDT) on the south coast of Long Island in the vicinity of Jones Beach State Park, Nassau County.

The storm moved northward across Long Island, then over Long Island Sound, reaching the Connecticut coast near Bridgeport. Her course continued across west central Massachusetts into southwest New Hampshire, and finally northeastward into western Maine. During this later period, over New Hampshire and Maine, tropical characteristics were lost.

The storm reached maximum intensity early on August 9th and was weakening as it approached landfall. Estimated maximum sustained winds at landfall were 65 knots and minimum sea level pressure was up near 980 millibars. Thus, as Belle neared land it decreased in intensity from a Category 3 major hurricane to a minimal hurricane during the 24 hours before landfall.

One of the reasons for this significant weakening is due to the fact that Belle's northward motion remained at speeds of less than 25 knots. This allowed for more time spent over the colder waters of the Atlantic Ocean north of the Gulf Stream which veers eastward away from the coast north of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Most of the major storms that have affected the northeastern United States have accelerated to speeds considerably higher than Belle and therefore did not have as much time over the water as did Belle.

On the night of August 9/10 the author, along with Bob Smart and Paul Lehman, spent anxious hours watching the tide creep over the top of my dock in Amity Harbor, located due north of the Jones Beach barrier strip. Bob Smart went out in the yard at about 0100 and reported that the rain had stopped and a full moon was out. We were then in the eye of the hurricane, and fearful of being trapped by either high water or falling trees, we left to see what we could see.

The bridge over Great South Bay was closed so we then went to see what was happening at the Shinnecock Inlet. On Sunrise Highway, the main south shore artery, we saw several birds sitting on the road, in the rain, which flew up at the approach of our car. Since it was dark and we only saw the birds fly up in the headlights we could not identify them to species but we could say that one was a "peep" and others appeared to have the configuration of terns.

When we got to the Shinnecock Inlet the bridge leading to the barrier beach was also closed, so we then proceeded to Mecox Bay to await the dawn. No unusual sightings of birds were made and we then decided to try Montauk. At Montauk hundreds of Common Terns and Herring Gulls were sitting on the beach below the lighthouse but there were no exotics in sight.

Hoping that the bridge to the Shinnecock Inlet would now be open, we returned at about 1300. While directly over the low bridge, Bob Smart identified a Wilson's Storm-petrel and immediately after that we saw 10 to 12 Cory's Shearwaters sitting in the water, inside the bay, 300 feet west of the bridge.

At the Shinnecock Inlet, we saw several Leach's Storm-petrels flying off the ocean, up the inlet and into Shinnecock Bay. The winds at that time were from the southwest at 30 to 40 mph.

Heading westward on Dune Road we met Paul Buckley who led us to a bulkhead on the bay side of the road and showed us an immature Bridled Tern he had just found. The bird was surface feeding with several Common Terns.

We were unable to get to the Moriches Inlet area because the road was closed, so we returned to the Captree-Jones Beach area. We were amazed at the incredible numbers of Laughing Gulls flying along the barrier beach, all heading in a westerly direction. They kept coming until nightfall and several thousand must have passed by then. No other unusual sightings were made and upon due consideration of what we had witnessed throughout the day, we concluded that all the unusual sightings had been concentrated in the eastern Moriches Bay and Shinnecock Bay which lie east of the passage of the hurricane.

One final note of interest: without exception the hurricane had flattened the beach sand on the ocean side from Jones Inlet to the Shinnecock Inlet to the consistency and appearance of concrete. From the top of the barrier dunes to the sea, the beach stretched to the horizon east and west unfurrowed and unmarked.

SIGHTINGS OF UNUSUAL BIRDS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA ATTRIBUTED TO HURRICANE BELLE

AUGUST 10

- Shinnecock Bay: 15 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 Greater Shearwater, 6 Leach's Storm-petrels, 1 Wilson's Storm-petrel (mob), 1 **Sandwich Tern** (Barbara Spencer, Barbara Connally), 1 **Bridled Tern** (Paul Buckley)
- Bellport Bay: near mouth of Carmans River: 1 black and white shearwater, 29 Leach's Storm-petrels (W. Graves)
- Jones Inlet: 1 Caspian Tern (T. Davis), 1 Avocet (Guy Tudor *et al.*)
- Croton Point: 1 Adult **Yellow-nosed Albatross** (B. Weissman, B. Howe)
- Smith Point Park, Fire Island: 100+ Wilson's Storm-petrels, 2 Northern Phalaropes (S. Kontos)

Shark River Inlet, N.J.: 1 Adult Sooty Tern sitting on buoy (R. Ryan)

Hackensack Meadows, N.J.: 2 possible Bridled Terns flying over N.J. Tpke. (S. Stepinoff)

AUGUST 11

Shinnecock Bay: 5 Cory's Shearwaters, 4 Leach's Storm-petrels (mob)

Moriches Inlet: 1 Adult Sandwich Tern (R. O. Paxton)

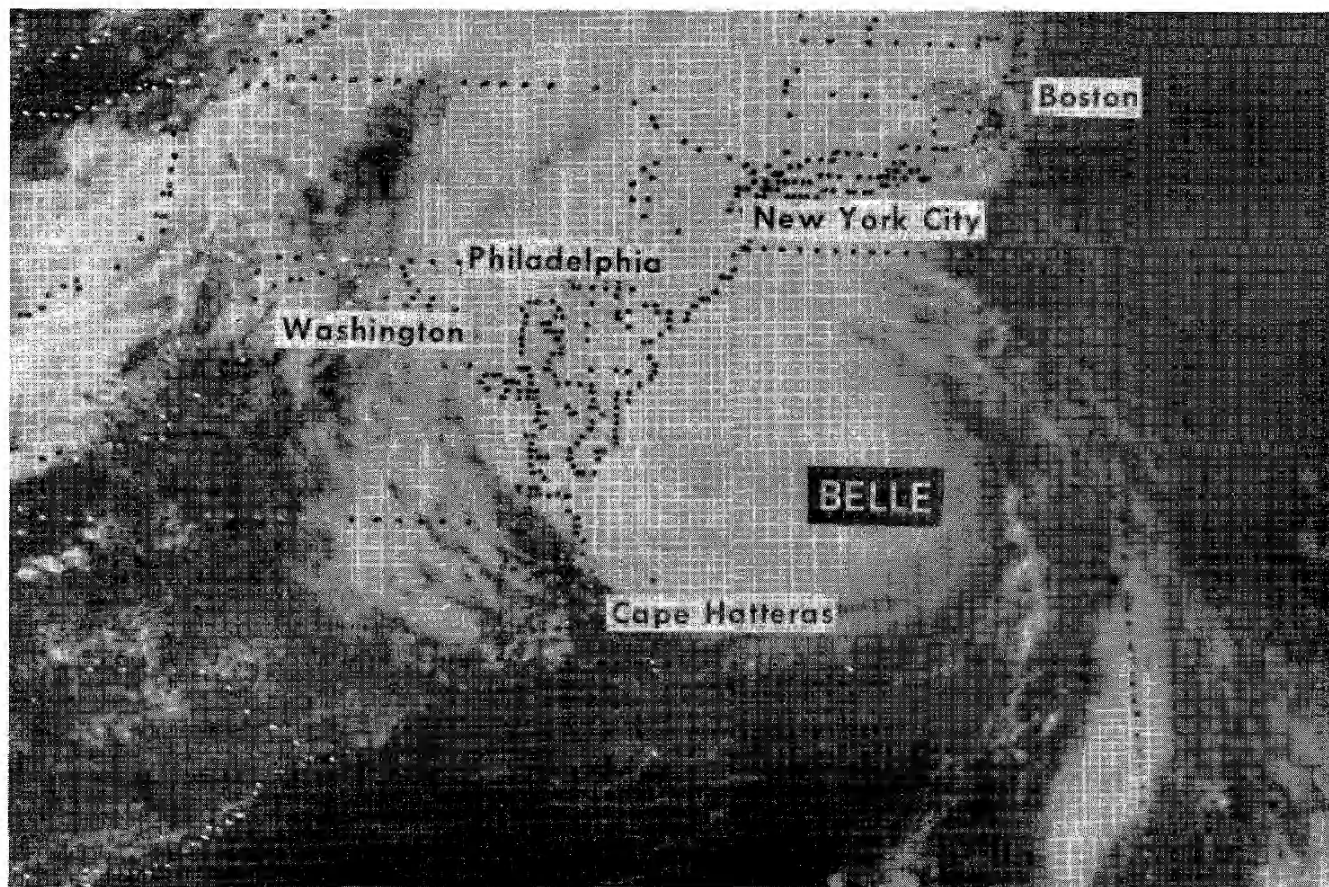
Milford Point, Connecticut: White-faced Frigate Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*), found dead on beach, specimen to Miley Bull at Connecticut Audubon Society.

I wish to thank Tom Davis for the above list of sightings and also thank the Associated Press for the photograph of Hurricane Belle and the National Hurricane Center in Miami for the technical description and track of the storm.

9 DeSoto Road, Amityville, New York 11701

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tony Lauro is already known to the readers of *The Kingbird* as the Co-editor of Region 10. He is in the general contracting business. Tony maintains a very active banding station in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary in the Town of Oyster Bay. He has been involved in a long-term study of the wintering populations of Yellow-rumped Warblers, among other projects. Among his affiliations are the Linnaean Society of New York and the Eastern Bird Banding Association. One unique point about Tony Lauro is that he is rarely seen in the field unless accompanied by his daughter Brook, making for the only father-daughter birdwatching team known to the editors.



Satellite cloud picture recorded at 4:30 p.m. EDT shows Hurricane Belle about 150 miles south of New York City.

—Wide World Photos

TRACK CHART OF HURRICANE BELLE

DATE	TIME EDT	POSITION LAT. LONG.	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	WIND (Knots)	CLASSIFICATION
8/6	0200	26.0 72.8	250 n.m. ene of the Bahamas	25	Tropical Depression
	0800	26.3 73.0		25	
	1400	26.0 73.4		30	
8/7	2000	25.6 73.2		40	Tropical Storm
	0200	26.0 73.2		45	
	0800	26.2 73.7		55	
8/8	1400	26.6 74.2	250 n.m. ese of Sea Island, Georgia	70	Hurricane
	2000	26.9 74.6		80	
	0200	27.4 75.1		90	
8/9	0800	28.1 75.1		95	
	1400	29.5 75.3		100	
	2000	30.9 75.3		105	
8/10	0200	32.5 75.2	150 n.m. e of Charleston, South Carolina	105	
	0800	34.4 74.7	5 n.m. sse of Cape Hatteras	95	
	1400	36.6 74.2	30 n.m. sse of Norfolk, Va.	90	
8/10	2000	38.8 73.8	45 n.m. e of Cape May, N.J.	80	Tropical Storm
	0200	41.0 73.2	10 n.m. s of Bridgeport, Conn.	60	
	0800	42.6 72.4	Northern Massachusetts	35	
	1400	Northern New Hampshire Southwest Maine			Extra Tropical

DECREASE IN BREEDING BROWN THRASHERS AND RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEES ON CENTRAL LONG ISLAND

GILBERT S. RAYNOR

From 1967 through 1976, two routes on central Long Island were covered annually for the cooperative Breeding Bird Survey of North America sponsored by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Robbins and Van Velzen, 1969). Each route is 24.5 miles in length and includes 50 stops. At each stop, all birds seen or heard within a three minute period are recorded. Routes are started one half hour before sunrise and take about four hours to complete. All routes were covered between June 14 and June 30, the height of the breeding season.

New York Route 001 begins in Westhampton and goes through Speonk, Remsenburg, Eastport, East Moriches, Manorville, Center Moriches, Moriches and Yaphank to Southaven. New York Route 002 starts in Manorville and goes through Yaphank, West Yaphank, Gordon Heights and Coram to Miller Place. Both routes include residential areas, small villages, farms and woods including the scrub oak and pitch pine woods typical of central Long Island. Since both routes cover largely similar habitat and are close together geographically, although not overlapping, data from the two were combined for analyses. All observations were made by the writer so differences between observers do not bias the data.

Both the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) and the Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) have always been considered common summer residents of the more open woods, particularly the scrub oak-pitch pine areas, on Long Island, although the towhee is numerically more abundant. Bull (1964) writing of the whole New York City area called the Brown Thrasher a "common . . . breeder at lower elevations" . . . "particularly numerous on the coastal plain." The towhee was described as a "common breeder at lower elevations" . . . "and is particularly numerous in scrub oak and pitch pine areas of the sandy coastal plain."

The towhee is also found in more mature woodlands if adequate understory growth exists and particularly where openings occur, but it is not as numerous there as in the more open woods. The thrasher also breeds in other types of bushy habitat such as residential areas, farm hedgerows and even the barrier beach.

Figure 1 shows the number of individuals of both species found at the 100 stops of the combined routes for each year of the period. The data show a marked decline in both species over the ten-year period, particularly in the last five years. Towhee numbers are now about half of those in the earlier years, disregarding the 1969 peak. Thrashers are down to about one quarter of their earlier numbers even without placing much weight on the 1967 count. For comparison, the number of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) is also shown. These data show a seven-fold increase since 1970. (The 1968 peak was due to several families of recently fledged young.) The recent increase in Mockingbird numbers in the Northeast has been widely reported and was documented earlier for Long Island from Christmas Count data (Raynor, 1975). The other two species do not winter in large enough numbers for trends to be discerned from those data, but observations suggest that Mockingbirds are replacing Brown Thrashers at feeders,

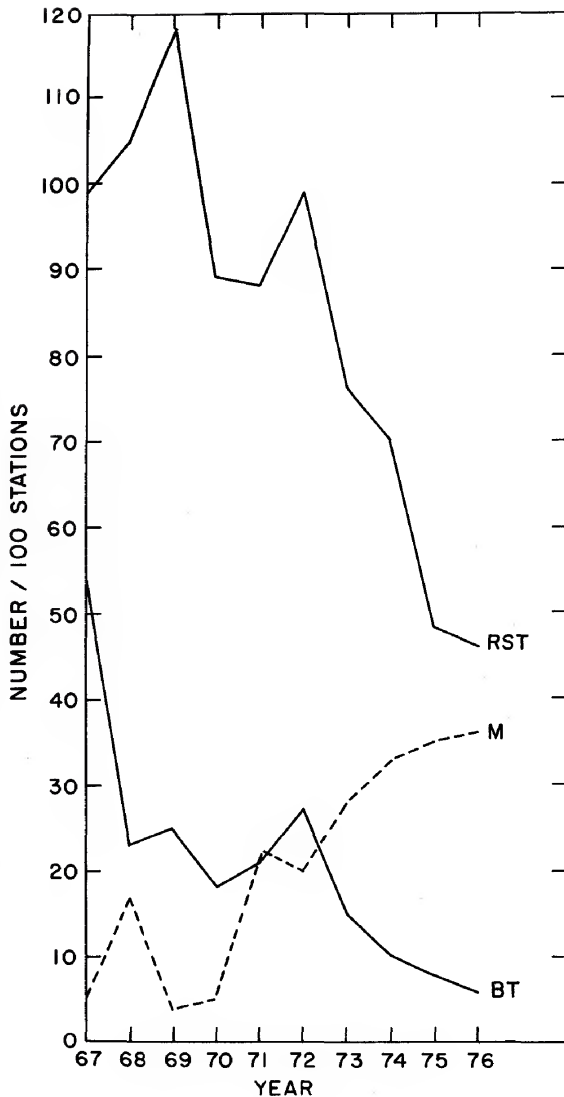


Figure 1. Number of Brown Thrashers (BT), Rufous-sided Towhees (RST), and Mockingbirds (M) recorded per 100 stations by year.

berry-bearing plants and other winter food sources.

Figure 2 shows the number of stops at which the three species were recorded. Towhees were found in about half as many stops, thrashers in about a third as many and Mockingbirds in about six times as many in 1976 as in earlier years. Combined results from the two figures show that the thrasher and towhee are not only found at fewer locations but are found in smaller numbers where still present.

Bystrak (1976) reported a highly significant average annual decline of 2% at the continental level in the towhee and a significant decline of the same magnitude in the Brown Thrasher from 1968 to 1975, essentially the same time period covered in this study. Thus, the changes on Long Island may be part of a more widespread trend

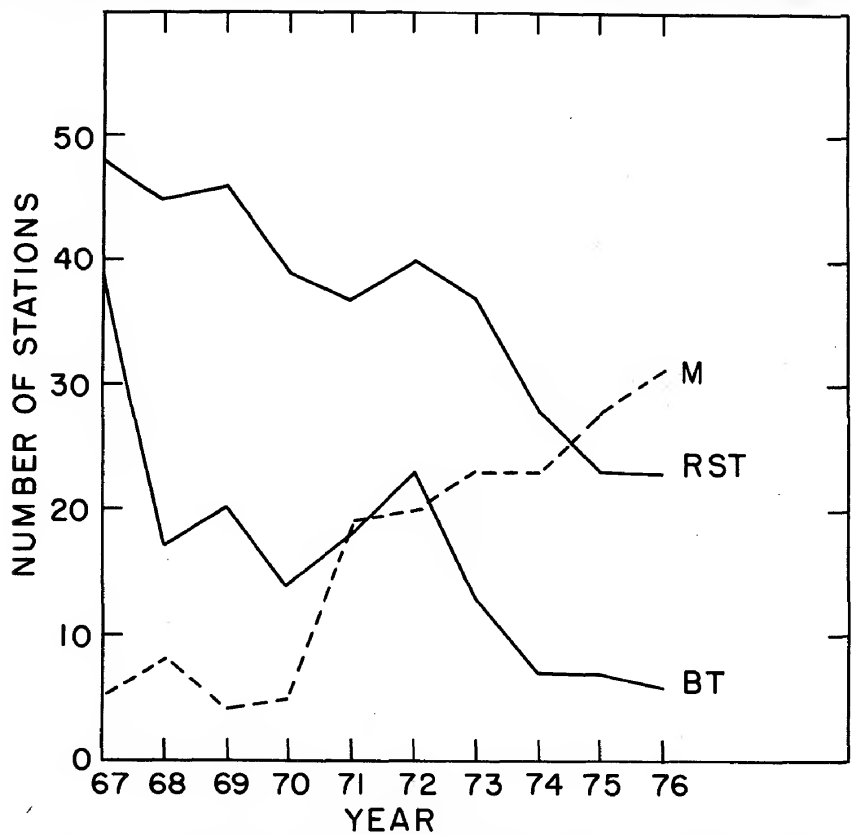


Figure 2. Number of stations at which Brown Thrashers (BT), Rufous-sided Towhees (RST), and Mockingbirds (M) were recorded by year.

amplified by local conditions.

The reasons for these declines are not definitely known. Little change in habitat has occurred along the two routes since 1967 except for normal growth of the wooded areas. This has increased vegetative density somewhat in some of the wooded tracts. Scrub oak and pitch pine areas tend to revert to climax oak forest in the absence of forest fires or other disturbance but this is a slow process and changes in the ten-year period seem small. Only one area adjacent to two stops was burned during the survey period but that area had been burned repeatedly in the past and was quite open before the most recent fire. A small amount of building has occurred along the routes but little in areas favored by the two species. One major highway was constructed through the area after the routes were established but is close enough to affect only about three stops by traffic noise.

It is suspected that the great increase in Mockingbirds has directly affected the Brown Thrasher population. When Mockingbirds moved into the area about twenty years ago, they first occupied residential areas little used by Brown Thrashers but have since spread into nearly all vegetated habitats except deep woods. The aggressive nature of this species probably allows it to dominate and displace the thrasher although direct conflicts have not been observed. However, this explanation probably does not apply to the towhee. Neither does it seem likely that such a marked decline could be caused by the seemingly minor changes occurring in its habitat. Thus, the species may be responding to still unrecognized environmental effects and serving as an indicator of environmental quality. Continued monitoring of its status over a wider area and attempts to determine the reasons for its decline are clearly desirable.

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Bystrak, D., 1976. *Breeding Bird Survey Newsletter Number 4*, Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland
Raynor, G. S., 1975. Techniques for Evaluating and Analyzing Christmas Bird Count Data, *Amer. Birds* 29: 626-633.
Robbins, C. S. and W. T. Van Velzen, 1969. *The Breeding Bird Survey, 1967 and 1968*. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Special Scientific Report—Wildlife No. 124, 128 pp.

Schultz Road, Manorville, Long Island, New York 11949

THE LITTLE BLUE HERON IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

GEORGE R. MAXWELL II

On 18 April 1975, my attention was drawn to an adult Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) feeding in shallow water in Rice Creek only 70 meters from the Rice Creek Biological Field Station laboratory, Oswego, Oswego County. The identification was confirmed by Carol Wernick and five other birders. The rich, slaty-blue plumage, dark legs, and the blue-grey, dark-tipped bill were easily seen through 7 x 35 binoculars and a 15x spotting scope. The bird fed in Rice Creek for 5 hours before departing.

This is the sixth report from Region 5 in the past 20 years (F. G. Scheider, pers. comm.). Three of the birds were in adult plumage and three in the white immature plumage. The previous sightings were at the Howland's Island Game Management Area, at Phoenix, and at Derby Hill. The appearance of the birds in this region appears to be correlated with tropical storms to the south and with advancing warm fronts accompanied by southerly or southwesterly winds. One of the immature birds appeared as a result of Hurricane Bertha on 10 August 1957 and another immature appeared on 27 September 1970 as tropical storm Greta generated high winds over south Florida. The adults appeared only in spring on warm south or southwest winds funneled northeastward by low pressure systems advancing from west to east along the gulf coast states. These same conditions are ideal for migratory flights along the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways.

The Little Blue Heron has established small nesting colonies at present only on Long Island (Region 10) at five locations: Canarsie Pol, Jamaica Bay, Kings Co.; Lawrence Marsh (6 pairs in 1968) and Tobay Pond, Nassau Co.; and Oak Beach and Gardiner's Island, Suffolk Co. (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 79). The Gardiner's Island colony is the northernmost nesting locality of the Little Blue Heron in New York and probably in North America.

All sightings reported from upstate are of non-breeding birds, with both extreme dates reported from Region 3: 23 March at Branchport, an adult, and 23 October at Ithaca, an immature (*The Kingbird* 18: 34 and 97, 1968). Table 1 summarizes the sightings of Little Blue Herons in upstate New York since 1957.

Table 1.
Recent sightings of the Little Blue Heron in New York outside of Region 10.

Region	No.	Plumage	Location	Date	Authority*
1	1	Adult	Angelica, Allegany Co.	30 Aug 64	15:26, 1965
	1	Imm.	Bear Lake Outlet, Stockton	3 May 70	20:183, 1970
	1	Adult	Iroquois N.W.R.	18 May 74	24:129, 1974
2	1	Adult	Hamlin	1 May 73	23:195, 1973
	1	Adult	Braddock's Bay	3 Jun 73	23:195, 1973
	1	Adult	Braddock's Bay	22 Apr 76	Taylor, Tetlow, Perrigo pers. comm.
	1	Adult	Is. Cottage Woods, Greece	2 May 76	Listman, Skelly, Perrigo pers. comm.
3	1	Adult	Millport	27 Apr 57	7:56, 1957
	7	Imm.	Montezuma N.W.R.	Summer 57	7:93, 1957
	1	Adult	Montezuma N.W.R.	24 Apr 60	10:62, 1960
	1	Imm.-Pied	Montezuma N.W.R.	11 Jun 63	13:21, 1963
	1		Dryden Lake	4 Apr 64	14:163, 1964
	1	Imm.	Montezuma N.W.R.	21 Oct 66	17:32, 1967
	1	Imm.	Ithaca	23 Oct 67	18:34, 1968
	1	Adult	Branchport	23 Mar 68	18:97, 1968
	1	—	Spencer	17 May 69	19:152, 1969
	1	—	Masonville	25 Sep 60	10:180, 1960
4	1	Imm.	Howland's Island G.M.A.	10 Aug 57	7:97, 1957
5	1	Adult	Phoenix	19 May 59	9:89, 1959
	1	Imm.-Pied	Howland's Island G.M.A.	25 Jul 65	15:238, 1965
	1	Imm.	Derby Hill	27 Sep 70	21:26, 1971
	1	Adult	Derby Hill	22 Apr 74	24:145, 1974
	1	Adult	Rice Creek B.F.S.	18 Apr 75	This note

Region	No.	Plumage	Location	Date	Authority*
6	1	Adult	Watertown	9 May 65	15:157, 1965
7	(No reports)				
8	1	—	Westerlo	6 Sep 61	11:226, 1961
	1	Adult	Old Chatham	22 Aug 64	15:49, 1965
	1	—	Albany	16 May 70	20:147, 1970
	1	Imm.	Muitzeskill Creek	10 Oct 72	23:62, 1973
9	1	—	Cruger's I., Dutchess Co.	Apr 60	10:77, 1960
	1	Adult,	Harmon	13 Aug 64	14:237, 1964
	2	Imm.			
	1	Imm.	Poughkeepsie	14 Aug 64	14:237, 1964
	4	Imm.	Newburgh	8 Aug 64	14:237, 1964
	6	—	Newburgh	9 Aug 65	15:251, 1965
	1	—	Lake DeForest, Rockland Co.	23 Jul 65	15:251, 1965
	3	Imm.	Newburgh	22 Aug 65	16:56, 1966
	1	—	Mt. Kisco	28 Mar 66	16:182, 1966
	1	—	Rockland Lake	27 Apr 66	16:182, 1966
	4	Adult,	Katonah	17 Aug 66	17:55, 1967
	1	Imm.			
	1	Adult	Vanderberg Cove, Dutchess Co.	17 Apr 69	19:178, 1969
	2	Imm.	Pine Plains	17 Aug 70	20:202, 1970
	1	Imm.	Poughkeepsie	23 Aug 70	21:38, 1971
	1	—	Cruger's I., Dutchess Co.	17 May 71	21:175, 1971
	1	Imm.	Cruger's I., Dutchess Co.	10 May 72	22:151, 1972
	1	Adult	East Park	21 Jul 73	23:211, 1973
	1	Imm.	Cornwall Bay	21 Jul 73	23:211, 1973
	1	—	Cruger's I., Dutchess Co.	24 Apr 74	24:156, 1974
	1	Imm.	Piermont Pier, Rockland Co.	21 Jul 74	24:209, 1974
	1	—	Roosevelt Cove, Hyde Park	24 Sep 74	25:54, 1975

* References are to *The Kingbird* unless otherwise noted.



Little Blue Heron

JFK Sanctuary, Oyster Bay, L.I.

June, 1974

—Manny Levine

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George R. Maxwell, II is a native of West Virginia and he received both an AB and an MS in biology from West Virginia University. After teaching in Texas, he attended Ohio State for his Ph.D. in Zoology, and then moved on to teach in South Carolina. He finally made it to New York State in 1966 and is the present Director of The Rice Creek Biological Field Station at SUNY Oswego, and a Professor of Zoology. He is at present involved in a survey of bird populations along the St. Lawrence River in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Eaton (1910, *Birds of New York*, pt. 1, p. 260) called the Little Blue Heron an "accidental summer visitant" and all records were from Long Island except for upstate sightings at Oneonta in 1899 and Binghamton in 1900. Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 76) reported a rare status for the heron except in 1929-30, 1936 and 1948 when larger flights occurred. The recent reports summarized here indicate that sightings do seem to be on the increase, especially in Region 9. Immatures continue to outnumber the adults; 32 immatures vs. 19 adults are reported in Table 1. The Little Blue will probably remain a rare to uncommon summer visitant in upstate areas for several years, with increases in sightings in Region 9 continuing to be reported.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

20 August 1976

Dear Sirs:

I would like to add my enthusiastic support to Paul DeBenedictis' proposal for the establishment of standardized, rigorous procedures for the acceptance of unusual sight records. For a number of years I lived in western New York where a written verification system very similar to that outlined by DeBenedictis has been used successfully for over two decades. Since that time I have lived in several other localities where a variety of other criteria for record acceptance were used. Therefore, I have some basis on which to view the problem objectively.

In most areas where written verification systems are not employed, acceptance of records by the local or regional authorities usually rests on familiarity with the observers involved. This and similar schemes have several serious drawbacks:

- 1) They are highly subjective.
- 2) Even the best observers occasionally make mistakes. Because of differing conditions of observation, each record by a given individual is characterized by a different degree of certainty.
- 3) Good and important records obtained by persons unknown to the local authorities are lost.
- 4) Objective evaluation by workers in the future is precluded. Both the taxonomy of species and criteria for their identification change as we learn more about them. Thus our judgment on the acceptability of a sight record might well change with time if a written description was available for evaluation.

These objections lead me to the conclusion that this system can function only in the most provincial and under-birded areas of the country.

Each of the problems listed above is eliminated by written verification. A permanent record is maintained that becomes equivalent to other forms of scientific data—it is always available for re-analysis. The reasons for acceptance or rejection of the record can be noted by the evaluators so that they are also available to future workers. There is no doubt that such a system with review by an expert committee adds an extra burden of work to the process of accumulating distributional information. However, if judiciously applied to only those records that reflect an important change in a species' status

and submitted on standardized forms, the work load should be acceptable. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has shown that the system is both workable and worthwhile and their experience could be valuable in planning a state-wide system. Finally, if it can work for the entire state, maybe it is not too ambitious to think about regional reporting.

Sincerely yours,
Kenneth P. Able, Assistant Professor
State University of New York at Albany
Albany, N.Y. 12222

KPA:dtg

Dear Sirs:

The account by A. J. Lauro (*The Kingbird* 26: 92, 1976) of a Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) captured by a praying mantis describes what is indeed a rare event. It is worth calling attention to an earlier report by Murray (*Wilson Bull.* 70: 381, 1958) who mentions a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) saved from the grasp of a praying mantis. In that case it was believed that the bird had been hovering in front of the mantis when it was captured. These observations indicate that the mantis may be an opportunistic feeder and perhaps should be called the "preying" mantis. The editors state that "It is unlikely that the mantis would have been able to do more than damage the feathers of the vireo." Perhaps that is true, but in both cases the mantids were apparently unaware of their limitations, and at present, so are we.

Michael Gochfeld,
Environmental Health Sciences,
Columbia University School of Public Health,
600 W. 168th Street, New York, N.Y. 10032

C. J. Ward has called to our attention still another instance of a praying mantis capturing a bird as reported from Dallas Co., Texas in *American Birds* (vol. 28, no. 1, p. 73, Feb., 1974); in this case the bird was a hummingbird of unknown species, which was released unharmed from the mantis' grasp by the observers who discovered it.

—Eds

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Winter Wren breeding on Long Island: On 19 June 1976, the author, with Thomas W. Burke, Diane Deagan, Robert O. Paxton, Barbara Spencer and Guy A. Tudor found evidence that a pair of Winter Wrens (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) was breeding at Connetquot River State Park, near the town of Islip, Suffolk County. Upon our arrival at the park's fish hatchery we immediately heard a singing Winter Wren in adjacent swampy deciduous forest. Later, about 60 yards distant, we startled a group of three Winter Wrens from a thick tangle of vegetation surrounding the base of a fallen tree. Two of these birds were obviously recently fledged; they showed prominent gape marks, had tails noticeably shorter than that of the accompanying adult, and constantly begged food from the third, unmarked, silent bird. On 26 June, Paxton again noted the male singing in this area.

John Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 413) notes that Winter Wrens occupy two distinct nesting habitats in New York State—montane evergreen forest and lowland bogs and swamps. The species has previously been reported breeding as far southeast as Westchester Co., where it is rare and local. There is no evidence that the species has attempted to breed on Long Island before.

Interestingly, other northern species breed or have bred at Connetquot River State Park within this Winter Wren's territory. Brown Creepers (*Certhia familiaris*) are common, and Canada Warblers (*Wilsonia canadensis*) nested here in 1971 (*The Kingbird*, 21: 246, 1971).

Thomas H. Davis, 9446-85th Road, Woodhaven, New York 11421

Yellow-nosed Albatross at Croton Point, Westchester County: The center of Hurricane "Belle" struck central Long Island about midnight August 9 and, continuing straight inland, passed about 50 miles east of the Hudson River Valley in the early morning hours.

The authors spent the morning of the 10th birding the bay, fields and marshes of Croton Point, noting only greater than normal numbers of Common Terns and Laughing Gulls. At noon we stationed ourselves on the southern tip of the point, a 30 foot high bluff extending southwest into the Hudson River. The rain had stopped and the wind was 25 mph from the northwest.

At about 1 p.m. we saw a Royal Tern flying south along the river, a second county record. (The first, unpublished, was of two birds at Rye, July 20, 1975, seen by Paul Lehman, Jim Coe and Berna Weissman.)

At 1:40 an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*) sud-

denly appeared from Croton Bay on the east side of the point, accompanied by several Great Black-backed Gulls. Its wingspread was about a foot longer than that of the gulls. Its mantle, upper wings and tail were black, its rump, body and face white, with the nape and back of the head suffused with gray. As it rounded the point it flapped twice, shearwater-style, on stiff, narrow wings, revealing their undersides to be white with a well-defined narrow black edge all around. Continuing north along the point the bird passed within 30 feet of us, about 15 feet below eye level. At that time a bright yellow stripe running the length of the culmen of its massive, blunt-tipped, black bill was clearly seen, both with and without binoculars. The bird disappeared from view to the north and, in spite of intensive searching throughout the Hudson River Valley the next day, was not seen again.

Hurricane "Belle" brought other pelagic strays in its wake. Several Bridled and Sooty Terns and many Leach's Storm-petrels were reported on the coast. A White-faced Storm-petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) was found dead August 11 at Milford Point, Connecticut. At least 30 Leach's Storm-petrels were scattered along the Connecticut River Valley into New Hampshire. (Reports *fide* T. H. Davis.).

We understand this is the second New York State record for Yellow-nosed Albatross, and the first inland. Other East Coast reports of this species this summer were immatures noted August 20, 40 miles west of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and August 21 at Cox's Ledge, 40 miles ESE of Montauk Point, New York.

William Howe, 137 Sarles Lane, Pleasantville, New York 10570

Berna Weissman, 15 Laurel Hill Road, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

Common Eider in Elmira: At mid-afternoon, 25 April 1976, I observed a female Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) about 1/4 mile west of the Walnut Street Bridge on the Chemung River in Elmira, Chemung Co. It was in the vicinity of a mixed flock of diving ducks including several Buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*), three female Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), one male Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*), and one female and two male scaups (*Aythya* sp.). The female eider accompanied the three scaups at all times. It attracted my attention because it did not have the white face of a female scaup, and because it was much larger than any of the scaups. When I viewed the bird from behind, I noted that its girth was much greater than that of a male scaup less than two feet to her right. The eider was entirely brown, except for the bill which was all blackish. The left side of the face had a buffy eye ring and a faint buffy line that arched back and downward from the eye ring. The right side of the face also had a buffy eye ring, but the line was fainter so that it did not appear to be connected to the eye ring. Because of the large size, chunky shape, brown color,

and lack of any noticeable white patches in the plumage, I concluded that the bird was an eider. I then referred to *Birds of North America* (Robbins *et al.*, 1966) to find out the field marks for differentiating the species of eiders, and continued to observe the bird in order to get a good look at the bill. When the bird faced me, I noted that the exposed portion of the upper mandible was very long, extending high onto the forehead, nearly to the eyes. From the side, this extension of the upper mandible made the feathered area beneath it appear unusually large. I observed the bird at a distance of about 100 yards through a Balscope Zoom 60, set at 20-30X. The sky was heavily overcast, but no rain was falling while I studied the bird. Stormy weather earlier in the day was undoubtedly responsible for the large variety of migrating ducks, gulls, and terns present in the area that day. Others who later observed the bird were: Wilifred Howard (610 Coburn Street, Elmira, New York 14904) and Mary Welles (1225 Horseheads-Big Flats Road, Elmira, New York 14903).

William A. Ostrander, 253 Elmwood Avenue, Elmira Heights, New York 14903

Red-tailed Hawk preys on Common Gallinule: On the afternoon of 9 May 1976, while banding three nestling Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) we found the foot of an adult Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) in the nest. The nest, located approximately 65 feet above ground in the crown of a Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), overlooks Clay Swamp in Onondaga County. The adult birds were observed on numerous previous occasions hunting over the marsh or perched atop electric transmission poles in the marsh.

The Common Gallinule has previously been reported as prey of Red-tailed Hawks (see Bent, *Life Histories of North America Birds of Prey*, Vol. 1, 1937, page 157), but to the authors' knowledge, this is the first such report for New York State. The occurrence is probably not uncommon around marshes in central New York.

The authors thank Mr. John Bull, American Museum of Natural History, for confirming the identification of the foot submitted to him.

Roy S. Slack and Joseph M. McMullen, Terrestrial Environmental Specialists,
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Pine Siskin breeding on Staten Island: A pair of Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) was observed feeding two young at a thistle feeder in the New Dorp section of Staten Island, Richmond County, beginning June 19, 1976. The birds were a remnant of the flock of twenty-five or more which had used the feeder during

the winter. A small number (two to four) remained at the feeder through the middle of May, after which time only one bird was observed coming to feed. This single bird appeared every day until the feeder ran out of seed on June 6. The feeder was refilled on June 12 and the bird reappeared within fifteen minutes, spending a good part of each day there during the following week. On June 19 a second adult came into the yard, accompanied by two fully fledged young in buffy juvenal plumage. This second bird fed both juvenals while the original bird remained at its post on the feeder. The two young and the adults stayed only a few minutes, but returned later that day for short visits, and were seen again on succeeding days. The birds were last seen on June 23.

From the continuing presence of at least one adult throughout the spring it is presumed that the siskins nested in the vicinity. Palmer (1968, in Bent, *Life Histories of N. A. Cardinals, etc.*, p. 431) states that the male feeds its mate at the nest during incubation and until the young attain flight, and this would explain why only one bird was seen feeding during late May and early June. If they did breed nearby, it would be the first such record for Staten Island and one of the few for southern New York State. Previous records are at Ossining, Westchester County, 1883, and Cornwall, Orange County, 1887 (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 564).

For a fuller account of this event see our weekly column, Footnotes on Nature, in the *Staten Island Sunday Advance*, July 4, 1976.

Bill and Norma Siebenheller, 384 Tysen's Lane, Staten Island, New York 10306

Soaring Great Blue Herons: A loose flock of about 50 Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) was observed for 20 minutes at 5 p.m. on 1 April 1976, as the birds circled above a ridge in the Catskill Mountains near Route 17 east of Hancock. Although the flock was very high, it was clearly noted through binoculars that many individuals were using thermals to gain altitude, as were seven Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) soaring above a nearby crest. The herons alternated flapping and soaring with set wings; soaring periods lasted about 5 to 15 seconds. Small groups of herons repeatedly broke away from the large flock and flew off, but most then made a large circle and rejoined the flock. Several other small groups of herons appeared in the distance and joined the flock, bringing the total to 74 birds. The entire flock flew off to the west at one point but most circled back a few minutes later and continued to flap and soar high above the ridge. No herons were seen soaring above any of the other nearby mountains. When last seen, the herons were so high that they were barely visible without binoculars.

On my next visit to the area on 7 April, a flock of 80 Great Blue Herons was seen in the same location. They lifted simultaneously out of the trees, flew in a

large low circle, and landed again in the trees near the top of the ridge. In subsequent observations made by Barbara Belanger and myself, it became clear that a nesting colony had formed at that location. From a vantage point on Route 17, 36 nests were counted (using a 20X spotting scope) on 29 April. Great Blue Herons were on or near many of the nests.

Soaring by Great Blue Herons has been reported before; it "sometimes soars in circles to immense heights—perhaps more often than generally realized," according to Palmer (Ed., *Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. I, 1962). Presumably this would occur most often during migration. However, a social function for some Great Blue Heron group flights has also been suggested. In a brief discussion of flights of all or most of the herons in a nesting area prior to the start of incubation, Pratt (*Condor* 72: 407-416, 1970) states that these flights "seemed to be socially induced." It seems unlikely that the soaring flight of 1 April was unrelated to the breeding colony later observed in exactly the same location. Perhaps this flight served in attracting birds to the colony, as in the "colony advertisement displays" of Ward and Zahavi (*Ibis* 115: 517-534, 1973).

Valerie M. Freer, Sullivan County Community College, Lock Sheldrake, New York 12759, and State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, New York 13901

Gray Kingbird at Jones Beach, Long Island: Late on the afternoon of September 11, 1976, a Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) was discovered on the topmost dead branch of a tree southeast of the parking lot at the Tobay (John F. Kennedy) Sanctuary, Jones Beach, Long Island. It was seen perched at close range for at least five minutes and finally flew off into thick growth as evening approached. In addition to the writer, four other people saw it well—Steve Quinn, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bengelsdorf, and my wife, Edith. Late the following morning, September 12, I decided to try for another look in broad daylight. As soon as I entered the sanctuary road off the main highway, I spotted the Gray Kingbird perched on the chain-link fence alongside the road. As I stopped the car to examine the bird, it flew off over the marsh and alighted on a sign farther along the road. It finally flew back to the partially dead tree where we had all seen it the previous day. I had several excellent looks at it both at rest and in flight. Altogether, I had it under observation for fully one-half hour, when I left it in the same tree. Unfortunately, no one else was around to observe it. It was not seen after the second day.

The outstanding characters—heavy bill, dark mask, white underparts, and notched tail without any white at the tip—left no doubt that we were looking at a Gray Kingbird. I am very familiar with this species, having observed it many

times in southern Florida, the West Indies, and Trinidad and Tobago. This makes the sixth occurrence for the species in New York, all records being from Long Island (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 365). No tropical disturbance prior to the observation might account for this bird's presence here, although Hurricane "Belle" had occurred several weeks before.

John Bull, Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History,
New York, New York



Adult Evening Grosbeak and young—Limestone, New York, Cattaraugus County
Photograph by Regina M. VanScoy *July 8, 1976*

Probable nesting of Evening Grosbeak in Cattaraugus County: On June 21, 1976 at 2 p.m. I was surprised to see an adult male Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) picking up grit on a dirt road adjacent to my house. The bird appeared to be in excellent health and had the bluish-green colored bill associated with breeding condition. On June 11, 1976, Dr. S. W. Eaton observed adult female Evening Grosbeaks in the Quaker Run area of Allegany State Park and with these observations the members of the newly formed Cattaraugus County Bird Club were alerted to the possibility of nesting Evening Grosbeaks in our county.

Unfortunately no one was able to locate an active nest but on July 1, 1976, at 2:15 p.m., an adult female and two fledged young came to my feeder. The female immediately began feeding on sunflower seeds while the two young remained in the large sugar maple trees that surround our feeders. The young came down out of the trees at 3:05 p.m. and drank from a small stream. The female fed them while they were on the ground. They in turn followed her and begged for food by crouching and fluttering their wings. On July 2, 1976, the female and two young remained in the yard nearly all day where they were observed and photographed by Dr. S. W. Eaton. The female fed voraciously on sunflower seeds while the young remained high up in the trees, sunning themselves and begging for food whenever the female came up to feed them. They were never observed feeding themselves. On July 3, 1976, at 7 a.m. one of the juvenals flew into a window and was killed instantly. The female and the surviving juvenal stayed in the vicinity most of the day and were observed daily until July 11, 1976.

The juvenal was collected and placed in a freezer until August 5, 1976, when Dr. S. W. Eaton of St. Bonaventure University prepared it as a study skin. The specimen weighed 50.75 grams but had probably lost several grams as a result of desiccation. Due to the black wing and tail, and the golden yellow on the tail coverts, head, wings and breast, the bird was believed to be a young male and on dissection this was found to be true. The crop was empty but the gizzard contained the following vegetable matter—% by volume: 75%—sunflower seeds, 25%—1 Red Maple bud (*Acer rubrum*), 2 Chokecherry pits (*Prunus virginiana*). Bent (1968, p. 216) notes that the most important vegetable food for the juvenal is the pit of the Pin Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*). This species is closely related to *Prunus virginiana*. No animal matter was present in either the crop or the gizzard. This specimen is now part of the permanent ornithological collection of St. Bonaventure University.

On July 8, 1976, at 10:45 a.m. an adult female with one juvenal was at the feeder and they suddenly flew off. Within seconds another female arrived with 3 young and she began feeding on sunflower seeds. The young stayed in the trees and the female periodically fed them there. They remained in the area until 2 p.m.; however, this group was never seen again. During the month of July, adult female Evening Grosbeaks with young were observed in at least one other location in Cattaraugus County and also in neighboring Allegany County.

John Bull (1974) notes that in New York State the Evening Grosbeak nests consistently only in the Adirondack region. The closest nesting sites to Cattaraugus County are in Pittsford (Monroe County) and Ithaca (Tompkins County); both of these nestings occurred in 1962. Other than these two sites there have been no recorded cases of the Evening Grosbeak nesting anywhere in western New York State.

One possible reason for this sudden extension of its range may be the cankerworm infestation that southwestern New York and northwestern Pennsylvania have been experiencing in the past few years. Bent (1968, p. 215) notes that "... the birds often appear for the first time or in unusual numbers wherever there is an outbreak of spruce budworm during the breeding season." Since the spruce budworm is one of the major insect foods of nestlings, the cankerworm may have been its replacement in this area. Maurice Broun notes their feeding on cankerworms (in Bent, 1968, p. 224): "Last May, from the 10th to the 15th, from 20 to 40 evening grosbeaks, remnants of large flocks that visited us during the winter, were observed in voracious day-long feedings on cankerworms in the tops of large oaks in front of the Sanctuary headquarters. The grosbeaks spent more time helping to clean up cankerworms than they did at the feeders, where sunflower seeds became a minor attraction."

Of course, it is always possible that the birds moved into this area after completing their nesting but we feel fairly certain that they nested here this year. It remains to be seen whether active nests will be found next year or if this was a one time only nesting.

Regina M. VanScoy, R.D. 1, Box 153, Limestone, New York 14753

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CORRIGENDA

Refer to the *Contents* page of Volume XXVI No. 2. Walter Benning was incorrectly listed as the author of "Veery in December in Ontario County." The author's name should have been listed as Paris Trail, as correctly credited in the body of the publication on page 92.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT W. SMART

Except for Region 10, which always goes its own way, the word that every regional editor used was WET. Dr. Scheider in Region 5 went so far as to refer to "the summer of the monsoon." June, in many places, was warm to hot, but July and August cool. The weather pattern managed to dry out somewhat in late August.

There was less agreement on the effects of summer's weather. Most editors agreed that it was bad but their reasons differed. Nest hunters were severely hampered by the heavy foliage and the lack of song. Some species delayed their nesting or were forced to second attempts after the destruction of the first nest. In agricultural areas, planting was delayed and haying was late, to the detriment of the various grassland species. Birders, as well as birds, were affected by all the rain and great credit must be given to the faithful who went out on the Breeding Bird Surveys and maintained an unbroken series of records.

The evaluation of the effects of the weather on water birds depended on the type of habitat where the observer usually found the birds. Most regions reported a poor shorebird flight because the normal flats were covered with water. Care should be taken in interpreting these results, however. The best tidal flats on Long Island also had fewer shorebirds than in past years. In contrast, Region 6 had excellent shorebirds in flooded fields. Many regions had excellent heron numbers and species, but it is impossible to say whether this is a result of the high water levels.

One other feature of the summer birding may be related to the cool, wet season. A number of regions reported very early, or record fall migration dates for southbound northern nesters. If this was a result of nesting failure in the breeding areas, the flight next spring could be rather poor.

There were a number of encouraging signs this summer. For a number of years the Waterman Bird Club in Dutchess Co. has sponsored a bluebird nesting box project. This year was their best ever: 66 nesting pairs with 35 pairs successful. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were more numerous than in past years and Henslow's Sparrow numbers were slightly up in several regions. Some areas reported a gain in the Savannah Sparrow population but this was not a general trend. The plight of the Vesper Sparrow, as noted in previous years, continues

to worsen. Is there any possibility of creating managed areas on unused farm land for this species?

The spread of some southern forms continues. Acadian Flycatchers were reported from many areas. The localized Dutchess Co. population is increasing and two active nests were kept under observation. The presence of Willow Flycatchers in two places in Region 7 is part of the trend of this species to move to the northeast. Care should be taken to note whether the Alder Flycatcher is slowly withdrawing from the more southerly portions of its range. In an opposite direction Golden-crowned Kinglets are breeding further south and in the coastal region we have breeding records for Pine Siskin and Winter Wren.

Many of the rarities reported from the individual regions would have qualified for the Bird of the Season award if a "lady" named Belle had not breezed through the southeastern part of the region on the night of Aug. 9-10. Rare birds are, of course, a function of the region in which they are found and it is most difficult to evaluate on a state-wide level. The Prairie Warblers from upstate would create no excitement in the southern sections and the before mentioned Winter Wren on Long Island would be noted only in passing in the mountains. Certain species caused comment in many regions. Whimbrels were reported in four inland regions. Cattle Egrets, along with most of the southern herons, were listed as outstanding in at least five non-coastal regions. Other rarities listed for more than one region include Northern and Wilson's Phalaropes, Barn Owl, Bald Eagle, Kentucky Warbler, and Orchard Oriole. Region 1 added Prothonotary and Worm-eating Warbler to the rare warbler list. Region 2 hit the jackpot with the observation of Wood Storks which rather overshadowed the record of a Ruff. A Clay-colored Sparrow on a Region 4 BBS raises some interesting possibilities. Certainly one of the most remarkable reports for the season was the Greater Shearwater flying north up the Hudson River south of Albany. What a wonderful bird to add to your yard list if you live that far inland. It would almost make gardening worthwhile. The bird had the poor taste to come to rest on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain rather than remaining in New York where it belonged.

(Note: If some of your favorite records do not appear in *The Kingbird*, do not always blame your Regional Editor. Some birds are removed from the regional reports by the Highlights Editor for reasons of space, questions of identifiability of the form reported at

the given season, or lack of convincing details for a very improbable record. Mistakes are certainly made in these judgments. Theoretically nothing is impossible in the birding world. Ludlow Griscom is quoted as having said, "Birds have wings and sometimes use them!" It is thought better to err on the side of caution, however, in such a journal of record as *The Kingbird*.)

Hurricane Belle, which hit the south shore of Long Island on the night of Aug. 9-10, was the source of a number of interesting records, particularly for those who observed the rule that one gets into the field as soon as it is possible to stand up after the storm's passage. Naturally the coastal region had most of the goodies but a number of inland reports are due to the storm. Least Terns were seen on the 10th in Region 8 and on the 15th in Region 6. The Black Skimmer and Royal Tern in Region 9 on the 10th were certainly storm driven but the skimmer in Region 8 on Aug. 6th must be given credit for forecasting the storm far in advance of the Weather Bureau. On the morning after the storm, 15 Cory's Shearwaters and both Wilson's and Leach's Storm-petrels were seen under a bridge over Shinnecock Bay. The best bird of the area was a Bridled Tern nearby. A Sandwich Tern was seen the following day.

By far the best bird of the storm, and the uncontested winner of the BOTS award, was seen by two observers at Croton Point on the Hudson River in Region 9 when a lengthy vigil was rewarded by the sight of an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross scaling up the river 30 feet offshore. Your envious editor offers his heartiest congratulations through a mist of tears.

Millbrook School, Millbrook, New York 12545

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Most of summer was a continual dropping, like a contentious woman: June—hot and wet—, July—lukewarm and wet—, August 1 to 13—so-so and wet—. Then at last, two hot, sunny weeks were especially sweet and spirits rose like the hawks suddenly soaring the skies. Heavy vegetation hid nests, as well as a bumper mouse population, and made rough going for the shanks' mare birder.

From 17, out of 19, of the 25-mile (40.2 km) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS, hereafter) conducted in the region for the 10th year (WK), 114 species and

16,700 individuals were recorded. For some species below, a status comparison of this year's number with others of the 10-year period is given as: (H+)=highest ever, (H)=one of top 3 totals, (L)=one of low 3 totals, or (L-)=lowest ever. In Allegany Co., the 7th annual "Mini-Run" breeding bird survey (Abbs, hereafter) was taken with 15, out of 17, of the 12-mile (19.3 km) routes reporting (CK). (See *The Kingbird*, Vol. XX, No. 4.) 100 species and 7,372 individual birds were counted. Below, status of some species is shown by (+)=increasing, (-)=decreasing, or (abs)=absent for 1st or 2nd time in 7 years. In Erie Co., the Buffalo Ornithological Society this year held a "Mini-Run" breeding bird census (Ebbs, hereafter) similar to that initiated by CK in Allegany Co. in 1970 (HK,FR,DF). The 12 routes recorded 84 species and 5,438 individual birds.

Summer positives include: (1) a very small gain for the Am. Bittern, (2) a small but interesting shorebird flight, (3) a great cuckoo summer for both species, (4) a splendid season for the Turkey Vulture, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Cardinal, (5) lots and lots of wrens, including Short-billed Marsh Wrens, (6) a "good to excellent" success of nesting forest songbirds (SE), (7) Yellow-breasted Chats doing better and better, (8) steady increase of Indigo Buntings and House Finches, and (9) proof of nesting ORCHARD ORIOLES and EVENING GROSBEAKS.

Worrisome abounding negatives include: (1) large numbers in low categories on breeding surveys (A reflection of this, as well as last, year's wet spring?), (2) almost no owl reports, (3) declines, continued from spring, of insectivores, especially swifts, swallows and flycatchers, (4) the old story of vanishing Horned Larks (Too much prolonged ice and snow for 3 consecutive springs?—Too many ground-covering crops?), (5) fewer Cedar Waxwings, and (6) many sparrows in bad shape.

Rarities, painstakingly identified, are: Cattle Egret, Mute Swan, Goshawk, Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes, Barn Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole, and House Finch.

Abbreviations: GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; SP—State Park.

Contributors: Robert Andriele, Elizabeth Brooks, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Ed Curtis (Weather Data, Wellsville Water and Light), Stephen Eaton, John Forness, Mary Forness (MFr), David Freeland, Douglas Kibbe, Harriette Klabunde, Walter Klabunde, Clarence Klingensmith, Harold Mitchell, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Ann Scott (AnS), Robert Sundell, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy, Ed Wilmot (Weather Data, Rossburg), Helen Wilson; and observers: Arthur R. Clark (ARC), Dorothy Danner, Flora Elderkin, Paul Hess, Joseph Kikta, Alice McKale, Willard McKale, William Rebovich, Frances Rew, Arthur Schaffner, David Wilcove.

LOONS—DUCKS: The Com. Loon left sooner this summer, the last one at Allegany SP June 13 (RS,RA+). Green Herons tallied 5 on Abbs(-), and a nest on Grand Is. produced 1 yg July 9 (HK,WK). 2 CATTLE EGRETS in breeding plumage near Barker June 6 (DK) and one at Clarence Aug 15 (DF), two months late, suggest nesting; another flew west near Barker June 7 (DK). Other long-legged waders noted were: at least 9 Great Egrets in 3 locations; a total of 3 Black-crowned Night Herons at 3 sites plus one on Ebbs; and 3 Am. Bitterns on BBS (H), one on Ebbs, and one at Cuba L July 11, 12 (AnS). A MUTE SWAN displayed itself at Times Beach July 27-Aug 13 (ARC,DF+) irregularly. A single Canada Goose was seen at Barcelona June 2 (RS), and 80 appeared at Burgeson Sanct. July 24 (FE).

Outstanding as the only duck nesting report is of Mallards with 10 yg in nest (from 11 eggs) at Williamsville June 1 (HM). Max, staying until late July, were all at Iroquois NWR: 15 Gadwall June 13 (DF), 6 Green-winged Teal July 5 (AM,WM), and 28 Am. Wigeon June 13 (DF). The Wood Duck was "abs" on Abbs (2nd time in 7 yrs.). Also noteworthy are a

Com. Goldeneye at Times Beach June 9 (RA+) and 3 Ruddy Ducks at Iroquois NWR June 13 (DF).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures totaled 6 on BBS (H+). **GOSHAWKS** were found in 6 locations in Allegany Co. where 4 yg were banded in 3 nests in June (Schiver, Wood *fide* LB,DB); a bird was seen in Newstead Aug. 20 (DF). The Sharp-shinned Hawk tallied one on BBS (H) with regional total 9 birds from 7 areas. Cooper's Hawks were scarce: only 2 birds reported. Further status of hawks from breeding surveys is shown by: 12 Red-tailed on BBS(L); 4 Red-shouldered on BBS(stable) and "abs" on Abbs; 2 Broad-winged on BBS (H+) and one on Abbs(new); 3 Marsh on BBS(H) and 3 on Abbs(+); and 27 Am. Kestrel on BBS(H). In June, 3 yg were banded in two of the 8 active Red-shouldered Hawk nests found in Allegany Co. (Schiver, Wood *fide* DB, LB) and single birds were noted at 4 other sites. A max of 3 Ospreys at Iroquois NWR stayed through June (DF, Morse+) and the first fall arrival was one at Belmont Aug. 19 (DB, LB). Ring-necked Pheasants tallied only 2 on Abbs(-). It took a sharp-eyed observer to spot 9 Virginia Rails at Tiff Farm June 15 (DF).

A max 20 Semipalmated Plovers appeared at Chautauqua L Aug. 7 (RS). Other fine plover reports include: 2 Am. Golden Plovers at Clarence Aug. 29 (DF); a Black-bellied Plover at Times Beach July 28 (DW, PH); and 6 Ruddy Turnstones on the breakwater at Olcott Aug. 13 (DK). Quality compensates for the unspectacular sandpiper flight: Com. Snipe are gaining: 16 on BBS(H+) and 2 on Abbs(new); Upland Sandpiper: 6 on BBS(L), also on Ebbs, and max 19 at Clarence Aug. 29 (DF+); Solitary Sandpiper: a new record flock of 18 at Prendergast Pt. Aug. 9 (RS); Spotted Sandpiper: 7 on BBS(L) and "abs" on Abbs (1st time in 7 yrs.); White-rumped Sandpiper: 5 at Times Beach June 2 (RA+); Pectoral Sandpiper: max 37 at Clarence Aug. 8 (DF+); Baird's Sandpiper: again at two Chautauqua L spots, with max 2 on Aug. 22 (RS); also, 5 at Clarence Aug. 8 (DF); Dunlin: one at Times Beach July 8 (DF)—very early; Short-billed Dowitcher: total of at least 46 birds in 4 locations July 8-Aug. 31; Stilt Sandpiper: 9 individuals totaled from 3 areas July 22-Aug 14; Semipalmated Sandpiper: max only 69 at Prendergast Pt. Aug. 9 (RS); 3 Sanderling at Bemus Cr Aug. 8 (RS), an uncommon location; **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** 3 at Tonawanda WMA June 13 (WR), very early and tying the State spring record number, and another at Clarence Aug. 15 (DF); and an early **NORTHERN PHALAROPE** at Iroquois NWR Aug. 25 (DK).

"Twas a dull gull season alleviated by 11 Great Black-backed Gulls at Barcelona June 29 (RS), and a total of 6 Caspian Terns from 3 locations.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Doves numbered only 48 on Abbs(-). Widely reported all season, cuckoos tallied 8 Yellow-billed(H+) and 28 Black-billed(H+) on the BBS. As usual, summer owls were neglected, but of special delight is the discovery of two **BARN OWLS** in a silo near Barker June 10 (DK). A Screech Owl appeared on Abbs(new) and an ad with 3 fledged, fluffy yg was found near Barker June 6 (DK). Breeding surveys listed 3 Great Horned Owls on Abbs(+) and 2 Barred Owls on BBS(H).

A Com. Nighthawk was seen at Cuba L July 12 (AnS) and max of migration was 200 at Clarence Aug. 26 (DF). Breeding surveys showed: Chimney Swift at 29 on BBS(L-); 33 Com. Flickers on BBS(L-); 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers on BBS(L-), but 11 other birds in 5 locations, and none on Abbs.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Flycatchers are having a hard time of it, as shown by: 60 E. Kingbirds on BBS(L); 31 Great Crested Flycatchers on BBS(L) and 12 on Abbs(-); 30 E. Phoebe on BBS(L) and nestings down by 1/3 at Amity; 9 Traill's Flycatchers on Abbs(-); 42 Least Flycatchers on BBS(L-); and 35 E. Wood Pewees on BBS(L-). However, a total of 4 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was seen at 2 sites. Several **ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS** were found: 2 territorial males near Barker June 6 (DK), one at Pembroke June 6 (RA+), and a max 2 in S. Valley June 18-July 31 (RS, RA+). Single Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared in only 4 areas.

Horned Larks show a steady decline, with but 41 on BBS(L-) and 5 on Abbs. All of the following swallows rate an "L" status on BBS: 28 Tree, 27 Bank, 7 Rough-winged, 350 Barn, and 6 Cliff which tallied 3 on Abbs(-). Purple Martins were "abs" on Abbs(2nd time in 7 yrs.). 493 Crows were tallied on BBS(L), well below the standard deviation.

Tufted Titmice were plentiful: 2 on BBS(H), and 16 birds totaled from 5 sites, including 2 yg at Spring Brook (DD). Red-breasted Nuthatches noted were 2 on BBS(H), one on Abbs(new) plus singles in 4 areas. A count of 4 Brown Creepers is not half bad for summer. "Wrens, wrens everywhere!" someone said, and here are figures to prove it: 225 House Wrens on BBS(H+); Carolina Wren: 1 on BBS(H) and 2 on Abbs(new), one near Barker Aug. 25 (DK), a new location, plus 19 other birds, including 9 yg, counted from 7 sites; yg Winter Wrens in Cattaraugus Co. June 20 (SE); and unusual numbers of Short-billed Marsh Wrens: 1 on Abbs(new) plus 14 birds on 7 territories.

Outside normal expectation on BBS were: 4 Mockingbirds(H+), 30 Brown Thrashers (L-), 1,197 Am. Robins(L-) and 2,373 Starlings(L-). A Swainson's Thrush appeared at Eggertsville June 13 (AM,WM). Although a total 26 E. Bluebirds was spread over 9 areas (same as '75), nestings were down 25%. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Iroquois NWR June 19 (DW) and at Barcelona Aug. 22 (RS). Summering Golden-crowned Kinglets continue to expand: 7 on BBS(H+), one on Abbs, yg at 2 locations, and ad at 8 including two new: Eden and N. Collins July 8 (RA). Single Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Eggertsville June 15 (AM) and at Amity L July 29 (VP). The only Loggerhead Shrikes recorded were 2 at Clarence Aug. 12 (DF).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: 9 Yellow-throated and 10 Solitary Vireos rated "H+" on BBS. At S. Valley, a max 2 WHITE-EYED VIREOS were identified June 24, 26 (RS,RA+) and 5 Philadelphia Vireos were counted from 3 areas. Significant numbers of warblers, on BBS were: 249 Yellow(L), 20 Ovenbirds(L-), and 6 Mourning(L-); and on Abbs were: 5 Magnolia(+), 21 Black-throated Green(+) and 4 Am. Redstart(-). PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS appeared again in Iroquois NWR with max 3 on June 13, 19 (DF,DW). A rare WORM-EATING WARBLER was found in Allegany SP June 5 (DF). Both hybrid warblers appeared: a max 2 "BREWSTER'S" in Carroll June 1-26 (RS,RA+), with singles in Lancaster June 4, 5(JK) and near Clarence Ctr June 4 (DF); and a rare "LAWRENCE'S" at Onoville and another at S. Valley June 24, 26(RS,RA+). 2 ad Nashville Warblers were feeding 4 yg in nest in Allegany SP June 4 (RS+) and a max 4 N. Parulas there June 5 (DF) were late. A Yellow-rumped Warbler was noted at McCarty Hill June 13 (RA+), and yg were near Alfred June 17 (EB). A Blackpoll Warbler in Allegany SP June 5 (DF) and a max 2 late Pine Warblers there June 6 (DF) ended their spring migration. A Pine Warbler near Alfred (CK) was first of fall. Several PRAIRIE WARBLERS were identified: a max 3 in Carroll June 24-July 2 (RA,RS), near Alfred June 14-28 (EB) irregularly, and an ad carrying food for yg in Allegany SP June 11 (SE). Also at Allegany SP, a KENTUCKY WARBLER was found June 4, 5 (RS+). Yellow-breasted Chats numbered 2 on BBS(H+) with a total 10 birds from other reports at 6 sites.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Noteworthy, on Abbs are: 249 House Sparrows(-), 70 E. Meadowlarks(-), 1,435 Redwings(+), 348 Com. Grackles(-) (Note: Com. Grackle colonies suffered heavy losses from Crows), and 169 Indigo Buntings(+); and on BBS are: 1,218 Com. Grackles(L-), 166 Brown-headed Cowbirds(L-), 128 Cardinals(H+), 67 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks(H+), and 152 Indigo Buntings(H+). An ORCHARD ORIOLE appeared on BBS, but confirming breeding here was an ad carrying food for yg in Allegany SP June 11 (SE). Superabundant proof of breeding EVENING GROSBEEKS here was provided when one of 3 fledglings was killed at a window at Limestone July 3 (JV,RV) and is now in the St. Bonaventure U. collection (SE). During June, reports of ad Evening Grosbeaks trickled in from 7 scattered locations; soon fledglings arrived with parents at feeders: 2 yg at L. Fox home, Olean June 27-July 7 (JF); 3 yg at Limestone July 1-11 (JV,RV); 3 yg at Frewsburg July 7 (RS,Bjorks,Young); 3 yg at Belmont July 14-20 (DB,LB); and 2 yg at Cuba July 20-25,

(HW). HOUSE FINCHES produced well: one yg at D. Baker's feeder, Olean June 18 (SE), one yg at Eggertsville July 31 (AM,WM) and 3 yg irregularly at Belmont July 1-Aug 31 (DB,LB). Am. Goldfinches tallied 337(L-) on BBS; 28 nests fledged only 47 yg in Amity (VP). A total 75 Red Crossbills in 3 locations stayed through June 11.

On BBS no sparrows rated an "H+," but "L-" were: 408 Savannah, zero Henslow's (absent for 1st time), 13 Vesper, 139 Field, and 836 Song; 5 Grasshopper rated "L". Low on Abbs was Vesper Sparrow: 5(-). A White-throated Sparrow's nest watched near Alfred was abandoned (EB). A single Lincoln's Sparrow arrived early near Barker Aug. 25 (DK).

CORRECTION: In *The Kingbird* Vol. XXVI No. 3 p. 156, the "7 collared birds . . . noted in 2 areas" should read: "7 collared birds (5 Whistling Swans and 2 Canada Geese) were noted in 2 areas; and Canada Geese reported in Hume" My thanks to LB for spotting this.

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

Summer was cooler, cloudier, and wetter than usual. Only 2 days of 90° F (32+° C) temperature occurred while rainfall totaled more than 3 inches (7.6 cm) above average. July was especially wet and cloudy while August contained the only dry stretch from the 14th to the 28th.

Water levels remained very high so that many shorebirds were scarce. Good numbers of herons and some waterfowl seem to reflect good breeding conditions. Some species of perching birds were delayed in nesting and ground nesters may have been hurt by the damp, cool weather.

The late spring flight did not extend as far into June as usual nor did the fall warbler flight begin as early as last summer. Shorebirding was better in August than in July and by the end of the month, good numbers of migrant insectivores were being seen.

Positive trends: (1) Continued breeding success of local herons and ducks, (2) Second location for nesting Goshawk, (3) Reappearance of Acadian Flycatcher as a nesting species, (4) Prospering Cliff Swallow and Short-billed Marsh Wren colonies, (5) Good numbers of some returning warblers in late August, (6) Slight improvement in status of short-tailed sparrows.

Negative trends: (1) Few Pied-billed Grebes again, (2) No improvement in Marsh Hawks or Red-shouldered Hawks, (3) Bald Eagle nest failed again, (4) Poor shorebird habitat, (5) Local tern reports low—i.e. Common Tern and Black Tern, (6) Chimney Swift declining—Com. Nighthawk virtually gone as a breeder, (7) Damp, cool weather may have hurt breeding insectivores, (8) Vesper Sparrow only slightly better.

Rarities: Wood Stork, Bald Eagle, Willet, Ruff, Acadian Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Red Crossbill, Fox Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BS—Bergen Swamp, BB—Braddock's Bay, HL—Hemlock Lake, IC—Island Cottage, PB—Point Breeze, WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Mike Carlson, Julie Claffey, Roger Clark, Frank and Robert Dobson, Kay Doris, Arlene and John Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Allen Kemnitzer, Dave

Linehan, James and Walter Listman, Joe and Thelma McNutt, Many Observers, Richard O'Hara, Chip Perrigo, Rochester Birding Association, Jean Shelby, Robert and Sue Spahn, Ann Stear, James Street, Sarah Talperry, David, Mike and Tom Tetlow, Robert Thoman, Doris Wiltow.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe still scarce. Several Double-crested Cormorants noted in June and early July. Cattle Egret—at least 4 thru July. Great Egret—2 in late August WL (MOB). **WOOD STORK**—2nd regional record—2 birds flying on WL July 6—well seen (J&TM). Glossy Ibis—last June 4 3 birds BB (JS). Whistling Swan—one until June 13 in Hamlin (AK & RO). Canada Goose reported every month—breeding?

Unusual duck reports—all on WL unless otherwise noted. Gadwall—max. 11, one adult and 10 young; Pintail—3 July 31, Perinton (TT); Green-winged Teal; American Wigeon; No. Shoveler—2 reports; Redhead—2 reports; Lesser Scaup; C. Goldeneye 1 BB (MOB); Bufflehead—up to 3 (MOB); Ruddy Duck—2 reports; Hooded Merganser—August, all month; (RD *et al.*); Red-breasted Merganser—1 June 13 (AK & RO). This lingering trend may lead to future breeding in some cases and deserves close watching.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Goshawk apparently nesting at BS (DL *et al.*) as well as Honeoye Lake (CP *et al.*). Sharp-shinned Hawk—5 reports, Cooper's Hawk only one. Red-shouldered Hawk one in early June and three singles in late August—no evidence of breeding. Broad-winged Hawk—2 single August records. Rough-legged Hawk—last June 8 Hamlin (WL). **BALD EAGLE**—one imm June 8 BB (JC *et al.*) and one ad June 22 Kendall (KD *et al.*).

Late spring shorebird reports include: Black-bellied Plover June 8, Gr. Yellowlegs June 12, Wilson's Phalarope—1 or 2 remained to June 17 (WL *et al.*). Another was in Perinton June 17 and 18 (M&DT)—no nesting evidence as yet. Eight Upland Sandpipers in Avon June 13 (GOS) was the best count. Three were in Carlton July 11 (AS *et al.*).

Returning shorebirds have been scattered and in small numbers due to lack of good habitat. At times only rainwater in plowed fields was available. Early reports: Gr. Yellowlegs July 1; Semipalmated Sandpiper June 30; Least Sandpiper June 27. Other notable August records: **WILLET** August 13 BB (R&SS), **RUFF** August 14 BB (RS), Red Knot August 24 & 25, Baird's Sandpiper 1 to 5 birds all month BB (MOB). Wilson's Phalarope 1 August 10 PB (CP); Buff-breasted Sandpiper 1 to 2 August 22-29 Kendall (J&WL *et al.*).

An estimate of 15,000 Ring-billed Gulls July 18 is high WL (CP). Bonaparte's Gulls, Common Terns, except for 35 August 22 BB (CP), and even Black Terns have all been low in numbers. Forster's Tern was noted 8 times in late August—one to two birds.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Doves continue to prosper and both cuckoos were well reported.

The first Barn Owl in three years appeared in Honeoye Falls—mid-July to August 17 (A&JF *et al.*). Barred Owls were noted at Bergen Swamp and Honeoye Lake. A late migrant Long-eared Owl was at PB June 13 (AK & RO) and a Saw-whet Owl in Clarkson on June 8 and 9 is also late (RC).

Ten Whip-poor-wills at Bergen Swamp June 10 is a fine count (MC *et al.*). Breeding Com. Nighthawks dropped still lower—almost none are left. Migrants did appear both in early June and late August. Chimney Swifts—are down and bear watching.

Woodpecker reports are normal—only a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Honeoye Lake June 5 was noteworthy (RBA).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Fewer Great Crested Flycatchers and E. Wood Pewees were reported. Perhaps less singing in the cool, damp weather was the cause. Noteworthy late departure dates: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—June 8 and Olive-sided Flycatcher—June 11. Both were reported again in late August. Best of all is the pair of **ACADIAN FLYCATCH-**

ERS at **BS** June 14 to July 10 (DL *et al.*). Another singing male was there also.

The Cliff Swallows' new Manitou colony had 15 nests this year but most were knocked down to paint the building. July Bank Swallow flocks were smaller than usual—max. 800 WL (DW *et al.*). Brown Creepers—max. 4—July 13 BS (DL *et al.*).

Up to 8 Short-billed Marsh Wrens at **SB** June 27 (A&BK) and others elsewhere are encouraging reports. Only one Hermit Thrush was reported at **HL** and few bluebirds were noted anywhere. A max. of 15 Golden-crowned Kinglets at **HL** June 18 appears to indicate a growing colony there (CP). A very early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen August 10 IC (CP) and 2 equally early Water Pipits were noted on August 3 (DW *et al.*). One Loggerhead Shrike near **BB** August 15 is the only report (F&RD).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Two Solitary Vireos June 14 **HL** were probably nesting (Ja.S. *et al.*); migrants were seen August 13 at **BB** (RC) and August 18 in **Penfield** (RT).

Both vireo and warbler song was poor at times during the cool nesting season so that birds were often hard to find. Nesting success may have been affected. Twenty species of warblers were reported from nesting territories during June. This includes every expected species except Hooded Warbler which is very scarce here now. Among the best records were: Nashville Warbler 2 **BS** June 13 (MC & CP); Yellow-rumped Warbler 2 reports **HL**; a singing male **PRAIRIE WARBLER** in **Rush** all June (ST *et al.*).

Considering the cool June weather it is surprising that more migrant warblers did not tarry longer. After June 6 even the Blackpoll Warbler was gone. However, a vagrant Nashville Warbler appeared in **Brighton** July 23 (JC) and a Tennessee Warbler was singing in **Webster** July 5 (AK). In addition a Blackburnian Warbler was far from nesting areas July 20 WL (DW *et al.*).

Best August records include: Cape May Warbler 50 **BB** August 20 (CP); Pine Warbler 1 August 21 (RS); Palm Warbler 1 August 13 (CP); American Redstart 30 August 28 (CP). Several observers commented on the homogeneous groupings—one day many Tennessee Warblers, another day mostly Bay-breasted Warblers, and still another day largely Cape May Warblers, or some other species.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark—apparently gone. The **ORCHARD ORIOLE** nest reported in May was abandoned but the pair at **PB** nested again—2 ad and 4 yg July 18 (CP & RC). Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds all seem somewhat reduced.

Indigo Bunting—prospering—good numbers everywhere. House Finch—still only a few here. A very late Evening Grosbeak June 3 WL. Also two were in **Perinton** on the unlikely date of July 25 (TT). The last Pine Siskins were seen on June 12 (RD). Twelve **RED CROSS-BILLS** on June 1 and two on July 3 at **Brooklea** are very late (RS)—no evidence of nesting.

Among the sparrows, improvement was reported for Henslow's Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows in a few locations, but they are still missing from many likely locations. Vesper Sparrows are completely gone from most former breeding areas on the lake plain, but are a little better in the hilly land south of **Rochester**. Perhaps more intensive cultivation of land is a factor in their sudden decline here.

Unusual sparrow reports include: White-crowned Sparrow—one singing male **PB** June 24 (WCL); White-throated Sparrow—two on June 5 (JS *et al.*) and August 10 (CP). A record late spring **FOX SPARROW** report is two birds June 3 in **Webster** (R&SS). A Lincoln's Sparrow on August 10 at **IC** (CP) is extremely early.

265 Carling Rd., Rochester, New York 14610

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The warm sunny days of June were the best days of the summer. Both temperatures and rainfall were a little above average. July thru mid-August was cloudy, cool and wet. The temperature rarely rose into the 80's ($29\pm^{\circ}\text{C}$). Ithaca's 8" (20.3 cm) of rainfall in July was twice the normal. The latter half of August was warm, dry and sunny with the temperature reaching the mid-80 degrees F ($29\pm^{\circ}\text{C}$). The month closed with fall weather moving in and the temperature dropped to the mid-30 degrees F ($1.6\pm^{\circ}\text{C}$) on August 31 bringing a wave of migrants—flycatchers, vireos, warblers, orioles—to Montezuma Refuge that day.

On the plus side, June weather was generally favorable to nesting success. Purple Martins have made an excellent recovery from their recent lows. At Montezuma Refuge all species except Black-crowned Night Heron and Least Bittern seem to be back to normal after the 1972 Agnes disaster. Canada Geese there had an excellent season and the ducks, excepting Wood Duck, did well. Good numbers of many species of shorebirds used the mudflats at Montezuma. The efforts to re-establish the Bald Eagle there are being watched with interest. Cardinals continue to increase, Indigo Buntings had an excellent year and there were more reports of Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows than in recent years.

Negative aspects of the season included the failure to hatch of 50% of the Wood Duck eggs at Montezuma Refuge. Eastern Phoebe continues a disaster species. Cliff Swallows are very hard to find and Rough-wings not much better. Vesper Sparrows continue at a very low level. The fruit and berry crop is below last year.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Censuses: The Trumansburg count showed 11-year highs for Gray Catbird, Am. Robin, Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Cardinal, Savannah and Song Sparrows and a 9-year high for House Sparrow. Only one N. Oriole was found in contrast to a 10-year high of 26 in 1975. On the MacDougall count Willow Flycatcher, House Wren, Warbling Vireo, Com. Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, Com. Grackle, Savannah and Field Sparrows were up with Am. Goldfinch down. Increasing on the Romulus run were Yellow Warbler, Com. Yellowthroat, Bobolink, N. Oriole and Cardinal. Decreasing were E. Kingbird, Willow Flycatcher, Crow, Starling and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Rarities: Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Fish Crow, "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers, Yellow-throated Warbler.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Ith—Ithaca; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; SP—State Park; * details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 1 MNWR Jun. 6-10; 10 Seneca L Jun. 20 (BH). Horned Grebe: 1 MNWR Jun. 6. Pied-billed Grebe: reported only from MNWR max 80 Jul. 30. Double-crested Cormorant: 4 MNWR Jun. 4; 1 dead Lansing Jul. 7. Great Blue Heron: widespread; max 400 MNWR Aug. 31. Green Heron: numerous reports; nested Cohocton. LITTLE BLUE HERON: adult Waterloo dump Aug. 14 (RSS). Cattle Egret: 13 Phelps Jun. 5 (Mrs. H. Fella); 1 Clyde Jun. 11; 1 MNWR Jun. 23. Great Egret: 1-5 MNWR thru. LOUISIANA HERON: immature MNWR Aug. 25 thru (EK,SS *et al.*)*. Black-crowned

Night Heron: 30 MNWR Jun. 30. Least Bittern: 1 MNWR Aug. 20 only report. Am. Bittern: max MNWR 60 Aug. 31. **GLOSSY IBIS**: 1 MNWR Jun. 6 (EK).

The Aug. 31 MNWR duck population figures are as follows (RG). Aug. 15, 1975 figures in parenthesis.

Mallard	4000 (1700)	Blue-winged Teal	2200 (750)
Black	350 (300)	Am. Wigeon	140 (150)
Gadwall	300 (350)	N. Shoveler	375 (100)
Pintail	60 (150)	Wood Duck	1700 (1200)
Green-winged Teal	1500 (400)	Hooded Merganser	80 (100)

Black Duck: 200 Hopewell Aug. 28 (JW). Bufflehead: 1 MNWR Jun. 27 and Aug. 20. Ruddy: 1 MNWR Jun. 27. Common Merganser: adult with 5 young Keuka L 1 mile south of Branchport (Earl Donaldson *vide* ML).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Shindagin Hollow Ith (mob); 1 W Danby Aug. 24 (JG). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Connecticut Hill Jun. 18, (EK). Broad-winged Hawk: pair seen carrying nesting material near Six Mile Creek, Ithaca, later screamed at intruders but no nest found (MB); 1 on Wilson Society field trip Jun. 5 at Monkey Run, Ith; 2 W. Danby Aug. 24 (JG). **GOLDEN EAGLE**: probable immature Big Flats Jun. 4 (Dr. and Mrs. Notman *vide* MW). Marsh Hawk: reported from Waterloo, MNWR, W. Danby, Cohocton. Osprey: 1 Geneva Aug. 23. Am. Kestrel: reporters comments, "plentiful," "another excellent year." Ruffed Grouse: nested Cohocton. Turkey: 2-3 family groups one with 13 young Shindagin Hollow, Ith. Virginia Rail: many young and adults MNWR Aug. Sora: young and adults max 50 MNWR Aug. Com. Gallinule: good breeding success MNWR and Waterloo dump. Am. Coot: 500 MNWR Aug. 31 (RG).

Semipalmated Plover: max 9 MNWR Aug. 20, Killdeer: max 120 MNWR Jun. 30. Am. Golden Plover: 1 MNWR Aug. 19, 28. Black-bellied Plover: 1 MNWR Aug. 28 thru. Ruddy Turnstone: Watkins Glen Aug. 1 early. Am. Woodcock: 40 MNWR Jun. 30; nested Cohocton. Com. Snipe: 30 MNWR Aug. 28. **WHIMBREL**: 1 Horseheads Aug. 7 (MW,WH,mob). Upland Sandpiper: 2 Waterloo dump Jul. 2; 5 Ith Jul. 7; 19 Elmira Jul. 7. Spotted Sandpiper: 15 MNWR. Solitary Sandpiper: 4 Spencer landfill Jul. 28-Aug. 9. Greater Yellowlegs: 100 MNWR Aug. 27. Lesser Yellowlegs: 120 MNWR Aug. 28; 2 Etna Jul. 17; 1 Clifton Springs Jul. 19-20. Pectoral Sandpiper: 50 MNWR Aug. 29. White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 MNWR Jun. 1; 5 MNWR Aug. 29. Least Sandpiper: several MNWR Jun. 1; 40 MNWR Aug. 29. Dunlin: 1 MNWR Jun. 24. Short-billed Dowitcher: 15 MNWR Aug. 27. Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 MNWR Aug. 17 (SS) no confirming details, very early. Stilt Sandpiper: 8 MNWR Aug. 18, 27. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 300 MNWR Aug. 18-20. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: 1 MNWR 28 (WEB)*. Wilson's Phalarope: 6 MNWR Aug. 7. Northern Phalarope: 4 MNWR Aug. 28-29.

Great Black-backed Gull: 2 MNWR Jun. 1. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Myers Point Aug. 4; 1 MNWR Aug. 19. **FORSTER'S TERN**: 1 MNWR Aug. 31 (WEB)*. Common Tern: 2-3 MNWR thru; 2 Myers Point Jul. 13, 26. Caspian Tern: 2 Myers Point Jul. 26-Aug. 4; 6 Ith Aug. 1; 5 MNWR Aug. 3 thru. Black Tern: 150 MNWR Jul. 15.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Barn Owl: nest at Ovid photographed by M. Hopiak in Aug.; nest with 3 young at Odessa Aug. Saw-whet Owl: 1 calling Ith Jun. 1 (EK). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reported from Reeder's Creek, MNWR and W. Danby. Black-billed Cuckoo: reported from Newark, Clifton Springs, Ithaca; nested at Cohocton. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 banded SAD Aug. 18 (MJ).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: down everywhere; at SAD MJ had a 4 year low of 26 pairs fledging 97 young from 150 eggs. **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER**: at Penn Yan ML banded 3 in Aug. against 11 in 1975 and 9 in 1974. On the Federation's Summer Bird Count at Ith Willow Flycatchers outnumbered Alders 4 to 1. **OLIVE-SIDED**

FLYCATCHER: 1 Big Flats Jun. 18 (T. Bates *fide* MW).

Tree Swallow: "population exploding" at SAD; "hundreds" at MNWR and Ith. Bank Swallow: 1,275 SAD Jul. 16-23; colonies at Myers Point and Odessa; down at MNWR. Rough-winged Swallow: scarce. Barn Swallow: "hordes everywhere." Cliff Swallow: "very hard to find." Purple Martin: widespread good reports. **FISH CROW:** 2 seen and heard Jun. 28-Jul. 21 Ith (EK, JG). House Wren: everywhere in good numbers. Carolina Wren: holding its recent gains in all parts of the region. Short-billed Marsh Wren: encouraging reports; pair on territory Seneca Falls; seen and heard at Ith Airport; 2 W. Danby Jul. 30. Mockingbird: reported from all parts of the Region; nested in "evergreen" tree at Elmira. Swainson's Thrush: 1 banded Penn Yan Aug. 3. Eastern Bluebird: at SAD 16 pairs raised 44 young in MJ's boxes for a fledging rate under 50% of last year; 1 Ith Jul. 4; 1 Clifton Springs Jul. 17; 2 Buttermilk Falls SP Aug. 15. Golden-crowned Kinglet: nest with 3 young Ith Jun. 12 (EK); reported Hector Land Use Area Jun. 27; 1 Dryden Jul. 4; several Tanglewood forest Elmira where young were found in 1974. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Alpine Aug. (JB).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Warblers: Black-and-white: 1 Michigan Hollow Jul. 30. Blue-winged: 1 Buttermilk Falls SP Aug. 15. **BREWSTER'S:** 1 Ith Jun. 5 (Wilson Society field trip); singles Burdette and Reading Center (JB); 1 netted Penn Yan Aug. 23 (ML)*. **LAWRENCE'S:** 1 banded Penn Yan Aug. 21 (ML)*. Nashville: 1 Elmira Jun. 6; 1 Waterloo Jul. 26. Magnolia: singing male Ith Jun. 6, 23. Black-throated Blue: a new addition to the Trumansburg Breeding Bird Census; 1 Ith Jun. 23. Yellow-rumped: adult with young Tanglewood forest Elmira Jul. 4 (Ostrander *fide* MW). Cerulean: new locations Phelps and Mt. Zoar Elmira. **YELLOW-THROATED:** seen and heard Ith Jun. 13 (Don Gray *fide* EK). Chestnut-sided: 1 Trumansburg Breeding Bird Census. Blackpoll: 1 Burdette Jun. 18. Prairie: 1 Connecticut Hill Jun. 17. Louisiana Waterthrush: feeding young Ithaca Jun. 23. Mourning: singles Connecticut Hill Jun. 18, Waterloo Jun. 20. Yellow-breasted Chat: reports from Ith, Reading Center and Burdette. Hooded: 1 Ith Jun. 4. Canada: 1 Reeder's Creek Seneca Co. Aug. 18.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: 50 Ith Airport Jul. 28. Indigo Bunting: "everywhere," "excellent numbers," "more abundant." Evening Grosbeak: female at feeder until Jun. 11 in Ith. Purple Finch: reported at Clifton Springs, Ith, Etna, Cohocton. House Finch: regular at feeders in Odessa and Watkins Glen; 10 netted Penn Yan Aug. (ML). Red Crossbill: 2 at Strath feeders at Odessa until mid-June and again for one day early Aug.

Sparrows: Savannah: 32 in 3 acres Ith Airport Jul. 6. Grasshopper: 7 in one acre Ith Airport Jul. 7; singing near Ith College campus; nested Cohocton. Henslow's: immature Ith Airport Jul. 20. Vesper: several reports but still low. Dark-eyed Junco: reported as "everywhere" in Engleslons Gully on the east side of Keuka L. White-throated: 4-5 singing males Connecticut Hill Jun. 6-18 (J. Kellar and C. Smith *fide* EK). Song: ML netted 314 in Aug. at Penn Yan compared to 154 in 1975 and 117 in 1974.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The rainy season was very cool this year. After a few really hot days in mid-June the highest recorded temperature in July was 81° F (27° C) and in August 84° F with respective lows of 48° and 42° F (9° and 5.5° C). It rained 20 days in July and 11 in August.

Again a major share of the data available from the summer season was collected on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys and again the results from all 13 surveys taken primarily within the Susquehanna Region are available, courtesy of Danny Bystrak. Their composite results are reported for each species found on at least one in the form "(10,7)", meaning 10 birds reported on 7 surveys.

This year the first Breeding Bird Censuses, in the same areas and approximately the same format as Christmas Censuses, were run by the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society at Oneonta (DOAS-BBC, 36 party hours) and the Naturalists' Club at Binghamton (NC-BBC, 30 party hours). Species by species comparisons between the counts obtained using the two methods should be of considerable interest, particularly if the effort expended on the less rigidly planned censuses is adequately recorded in the form of party hours, time of day, etc. However, only selected results of the censuses are reported here.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys used: Cooperstown, Jun. 19, Cora Wellman; Corbettville, Jun. 19, Paul Kalka; Coventryville, Jun. 27, Les Bemont; Dryden, Jun. 3, Margaret Shepherd; Laurens, Jun. 11, John New; Lisle, Jun. 26, Robert Pantle; McDonough, Jun. 24, Claude Howard; Meridale, Jun. 11, Mildred Clark; Newark Valley (E. Newark), Jun. 19, Elva Hawken; Oneonta, Jun. 5, John New; Oxford, Jun. 6, Harriet Marsi; Vestal Center, Jun. 20, Elizabeth Washburn; Whitney Point, Jun. 19, Robert Pantle.

Other contributing observers: Mike Bennett; Gail Corderman; Warren Corderman; Anna and Marilyn Davis; Mary Dobinsky; Sadie Dorber; Ron Enck; Seth Jacobsen; Eugene Kirch; Mary Sheffield; Robert Sheffield; Ruth and Sally White; Kathryn Wilson; Irene Wright; Wayne Wright.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Goodyear L, near Oneonta, Aug. 21. Great Blue Heron: (10,7). Green Heron: (4,4). Am. Bittern: (1,1) Lisle BBS, the only report all summer. Canada Goose: 1 DOAS-BBC. Mallard: 15 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Black Duck: 1 DOAS-BBC. Wood Duck: 1 DOAS-BBC; more common in Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: (4,1) Meridale BBS. Cooper's Hawk: (1,1) Oxford BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC. Red-tailed Hawk: (8,5); 11 DOAS-BBC; 2 NC-BBC. Red-shouldered Hawk: (2,2) Dryden BBS and Corbettville BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC. Broad-winged Hawk: 6 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Marsh Hawk: 1 Vestal Center Aug. 22. Osprey: 1 Goodyear L Aug. 14, first fall date. Am. Kestrel: (17,10); 11 DOAS-BBC; 10 NC-BBC. Ruffed Grouse: (2,2); 6 NC-BBC. Ring-necked Pheasant: (17,6); 9 NC-BBC. Virginia Rail: 1 Portlandville Aug. 14, "sooty black immature ran across road." Semipalmated Plover: 1 South Otselic Jul. 31. Killdeer: (94,13); 16 DOAS-BBC; 34 NC-BBC. Woodcock: 1 DOAS-BBC. Common Snipe: (3,2). Spotted Sandpiper: (10,6); 1 DOAS-BBC; 4 NC-BBC; rather scarce. Solitary Sandpiper: 1 South Otselic Jul. 31; Aug. 3 Oneonta. Ring-billed Gull: 2 Whitney Point Jul. 14; Aug. 17 Goodyear L.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: (161,13). Mourning Dove: (116,13); 17 DOAS-BBC; 31 NC-BBC. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (2,2); 1 each DOAS-BBC and NC-BBC; only 2 other reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: (5,4); 1 DOAS-BBC; only 2 other reports. Screech Owl: (1,1); 2 NC-BBC; 2 Aug. reports. Barred Owl: "all summer" s. of Binghamton. Com. Nighthawk: 4 DOAS-BBC; 5 NC-BBC. Chimney Swift: (55,10). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1,1); 4 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Belted Kingfisher: (9,5). Common Flicker: (88,13). Pileated Woodpecker: (1,1); 1 DOAS-BBC; 3 other reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Sherburne Aug. 20. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (2,2); 3 DOAS-BBC. Hairy Woodpecker: (8,5). Downy Woodpecker: (25,9).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: (38,12); 19 DOAS-BBC; 5 NC-BBC. Great Crested Flycatcher: (48,12); 16 DOAS-BBC; 9 NC-BBC. E. Phoebe: (86,13). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Aug. 18 Crumhorn Mountain area, Otsego Co., the first of 5 fall migrant reports. Willow Flycatcher: (17,8); 7 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Alder Flycatcher:

(7,2). Least Flycatcher: (78,12). E. Wood Pewee: (39,11). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Aug. 7 Binghamton, the only report. Horned Lark: (5,2); 2 NC-BBC. Tree Swallow: (52,10); 52 DOAS-BBC; 42 NC-BBC. Bank Swallow: (56,3); 125 NC-BBC. Rough-winged Swallow: (5,2); 2 NC-BBC; none after Jun. Barn Swallow: (315,13). Cliff Swallow: (1,1) Meridale BBS; all summer in Milford area of Otsego Co. Purple Martin: (3,1) Corbetsville BBS; 14 NC-BBC. Blue Jay: (143,13); 62 DOAS-BBC; 49 NC-BBC. Crow: (444,13); 62 DOAS-BBC; 51 NC-BBC. Black-capped Chickadee: (77,13); 42 DOAS-BBC; 15 NC-BBC. Tufted Titmouse: (3,2) E. Newark and Lisle BBS; 1 NC-BBC; also at 3 usual Triple Cities locations. White-breasted Nuthatch: (11,7); 6 DOAS-BBC; 2 NC-BBC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: (1,1) Coventryville BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC; 8 Pharsalia Jun. 5; Aug. 14 Portlandville area. Brown Creeper: (2,2); 2 DOAS-BBC. House Wren: (238,13); 22 DOAS-BBC; 89 NC-BBC. Winter Wren: (2,2); 1 DOAS-BBC; 2 Sherburne Jul. 10, singing. Carolina Wren: 4 NC-BBC. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 5 Norwich Jun. 19, singing. Mockingbird: (1,1) Vestal Center BBS; 8 NC-BBC. Gray Catbird: (205,13). Brown Thrasher: (53,13). Am. Robin: (778,13). Wood Thrush: (184,13). Hermit Thrush: (8,4); 2 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC; Jul. 25 Choconut Center, singing; all summer s. of Binghamton. Swainson's Thrush: 1 DOAS-BBC; 2 Pharsalia Jun. 5; 1 and 2 banded Vestal Aug. 24 and 31 respectively, surely migrants. Veery: (104,12). E. Bluebird: (10,6); 4 DOAS-BBC; 6 NC-BBC; 8 e. Otsego Co. Jul. 24, the best count. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (1,1) Oneonta BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC. Cedar Waxwing: (62,10); 13 DOAS-BBC; 15 NC-BBC; common all summer, 60 Emmons, near Oneonta, Aug. 24 max. Starling: (1600,13); 307 DOAS-BBC; 1432 NC-BBC.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (18,7); Jun. 25 Oneonta, pair feeding cowbird. Solitary Vireo: (3,2); 2 DOAS-BBC; 2 NC-BBC; 5 other reports. Red-eyed Vireo: (192,13); 48 DOAS-BBC; 32 NC-BBC. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 banded Aug. 30 Vestal (EH). Warbling Vireo: (32,10). Black-and-white Warbler: (13,7); 5 DOAS-BBC; 3 NC-BBC. Golden-winged Warbler: (2,2); 1 DOAS-BBC; 3 NC-BBC. Blue-winged Warbler: (2,1) McDonough BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Tennessee Warbler: Aug. 18 Crumhorn Mt. area, first of 5 Aug. records including 3 banded at Vestal. Nashville Warbler: (5,3); 2 DOAS-BBC; 3 NC-BBC. Yellow Warbler: (235,13); Jun. 25 Oneonta, feeding cowbird. Magnolia Warbler: (3,3); 5 DOAS-BBC. Cape May Warbler: 2 Crumhorn Mt. area Aug. 18; 1 banded Vestal Aug. 31; no others. Black-throated Blue Warbler: (1,1); 2 DOAS-BBC; 4 Crumhorn Mt. area Aug. 18. Yellow-rumped Warbler: (2,2) Oneonta and Laurens BBS; 2 DOAS-BBC; 3 Pharsalia Jun. 5; 4 Crumhorn Mt. Aug. 18. Black-throated Green Warbler: (11,5); 19 DOAS-BBC; 4 Crumhorn Mt. area Aug. 18. Blackburnian Warbler: (7,3); 2 DOAS-BBC; 7 Pharsalia Jun. 5. Chestnut-sided Warbler: (51,13); 20 DOAS-BBC; 14 NC-BBC; 12 Crumhorn Mt. area Aug. 18. Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 banded Vestal Aug. 29. Blackpoll Warbler: spring migrants to Jun. 2 Endwell. Pine Warbler: (1,1) McDonough BBS, at same stop where found previous years. Prairie Warbler: (1,1) Corbetsville BBS; 3 NC-BBC; at Vestal Center again during Jun. Ovenbird: (68,10); 33 DOAS-BBC; 19 NC-BBC. Northern Waterthrush: (1,1) Oxford BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC; Aug. 7 singing near Oneonta. Louisiana Waterthrush: 6 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Mourning Warbler: (3,2); 2 DOAS-BBC; Jun. 26 Milford area, scolding with food in bill. Common Yellowthroat: (400,13); 76 DOAS-BBC; 86 NC-BBC. Wilson's Warbler: Aug. 21 Binghamton; 1 banded Aug. 30 Vestal. Canada Warbler: (9,5); 12 DOAS-BBC. Am. Redstart: (41,11); 35 DOAS-BBC; 2 NC-BBC.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (388,11). Bobolink: (139,12); Aug. 12 Whitney Point, apparent last date. E. Meadowlark: (129,13). Red-winged Blackbird: (1816,13); 278 DOAS-BBC; 304 NC-BBC. Northern Oriole: (165,13); 52 DOAS-BBC; 31 NC-BBC. Common Grackle: (410,13); 96 DOAS-BBC; 182 NC-BBC. Brown-headed Cowbird: (109,13); 75 DOAS-BBC; 13 NC-BBC. Scarlet Tanager: (63,13). Cardinal: (57,11); 8 DOAS-BBC; 36 NC-BBC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (68,13). Indigo Bunting:

(101,12). Purple Finch: (11,6); 10 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. House Finch: (7,1); 2 DOAS-BBC; 26 NC-BBC; Jun. 1 Oneonta, male feeding 2 young. Am. Goldfinch: (267, 13). Rufous-sided Towhee: (103,12). Savannah Sparrow: (101,12); 14 DOAS-BBC; 3 NC-BBC. Grasshopper Sparrow: (5,4); 1 NC-BBC; 1 Union Center Jul. 19; no others. Henslow's Sparrow: (3,2); Jun. 6 Choconut Center; no others. Vesper Sparrow: (6,5); 2 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC; Jul. 24, e. Otsego Co.; no others. Dark-eyed Junco: (17,5); 22 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC; 3 Pharsalia Jun. 5; reported fairly regularly all period, particularly in Otsego Co. Chipping Sparrow: (171,13). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Oxford BBS, second consecutive year. Field Sparrow: (165,13). White-throated Sparrow: (25,4); 17 DOAS-BBC; 2 Pharsalia Jun. 5. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 banded Aug. 30 Vestal. Swamp Sparrow: (29,7). Song Sparrow: (507,13).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

And so ends the summer of the monsoon! June was the second wettest on record, July the wettest, and August the fourth wettest and sunshine for the summer was 20% of normal. The grass grew like an Irish jungle; farm planting was delayed severely and hay cutting was markedly retarded, commencing just when the grassland species had callow young. The persistent rain seemed especially hard on the breeding success of the aerial insectivores (night-hawks, swifts, swallows) and the ground nesters which must have had to re-nest over and over again, much as the lady in the limerick. The frequent rainy days delayed some of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys—hereafter BBS—but eventually ten of the eleven were accomplished—Alder Creek June 5, Cicero Center June 10, Clinton June 18, Kasoag June 8, McKeever June 6, N. Wilmurt June 18, Old Forge June 22, Oneida June 15, Oriskany Falls June 5, Pulaski June 3. These in five years have become the primary numerical data for the summer season. The fixed station-set time technique makes running one almost as challenging as a May Day Big Run but there's more paper work to it. Incidentally one BBS led the observer to a magnificent stand of Showy Lady Slipper, a beautiful botanical bonus. The early local flocking of icterids and swallows suggests that many nestings were destroyed or abandoned and the many very early arrival dates of species breeding north of here suggest it may have occurred elsewhere also.

Summer positives include 1) increased numbers of summering Canada Geese and improved Wood Duck production; 2) Turkey Vulture expansion east and south of Oneida Lake; 3) continued expansion of the "sedentary southerners," Red-bellied Woodpecker and Mockingbird, and to a lesser extent, of Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren; 4) increased numbers of Blue Jay and House Wren; 5) further expansion of Golden-crowned Kinglet with some parallel expansion of Ruby-crowned Kinglet in the Adirondack sector of the region; 6) increased numbers of Nashville, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Hooded Warblers and Common Yellowthroat; 7) record fall arrival dates for some warblers and a few other northern forest species.

Summer negatives are 1) reduction in breeding Pied-billed Grebe numbers; 2) no major push of southern white herons; 3) absence of summering diving ducks; 4) continued decline of Ring-necked Pheasant; 5) a miserable fall shorebird flight, both in variety and numbers; 6) further decline in Black Tern; 7) reduced numbers of Common Nighthawk and some swallows; 8) further losses of Horned Lark and the "grassland" sparrows; 9) very poor

Eastern Bluebird nesting success; 10) notable reductions in breeding Black-throated Blue, Cerulean, Mourning, and Canada Warblers. Whether the reduced counts of Common Grackle is a positive or a negative depends on how you feel about icterids in general and grackles in particular.

Rare species for the summer—Cattle Egret, Bald Eagle, King Rail, Whimbrel, Dunlin, Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes, Little Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, and Orchard Oriole.

Abbreviations—HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; Onon L—Onondaga L; SP & SPI—Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; Syr—Syracuse; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; pr—Pair.

Compilers—Gene Huggins and Lew Leidwinger.

Contributors—D. W. Ackley, J. & B. Barker, B. P. Burt, G. & C. Church, K. Coyle, D. W. Crumb, T. Dittrich, G. Huggins, R. E. Long, P. & S. Paquette, B. & S. Peebles, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, G. A. Smith, C. G. Spies.

Please have fall material (1 Sept.-30 Nov.) in by 7 Dec. 1976.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: three pr. in Ontario lakeshore marshes (GAS), the only summer records. Green Heron: max 25 (very low) Aug. 26 Fox Ridge. Great Egret: singles Aug. 8 Verona Beach, Connors Road Park thru Aug., and Onondaga L Aug. 23—very scarce. **CATTLE EGRET:** one in breeding plumage Jul. 4 Port Byron. American Bittern: very scarce—max three Jun. 13 Deer Creek marshes; many of the major marshes are now devoid of them. Canada Goose: summer max 106 Jul. 4 HIGMA; present thru summer in Six Mile Creek marsh near Phoenix—breeding? Brant: one Jun. 17 Pleasant Pt., L Ontario (GAS), only summer record. Blue-winged Teal: seemed scarce this summer—max 47 (low) Oneida L Aug. 29. Wood Duck: excellent production this summer, e.g. two females with 25 young Jun. 6 near Rome; 161 in evening flight Aug. 26 Fox Ridge—much better tallies than the last three years. The only summering diving duck was a single Red-breasted Merganser Jul. 22 at Sylvan Beach—none noted on L Ontario for entire summer—pesticides, increased boating disturbance?

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: definitely expanding—furthest east reports are singles at villages of Earlville and Madison in Madison Co. in June and at Forestport in north-eastern Oneida Co. June 6. Goshawk: three nests produced five young (G. Church). Red-shouldered Hawk: the one active non-Adirondack nest produced three young. **BALD EAGLE:** only summer report is an imm at Rice Creek Biological Station, Oswego, June 13. Marsh Hawk: one pair raised three young, Oswego Co. American Kestrel: up on five of the ten BBS with max 11 Pulaski BBS. Ring-necked Pheasant: down on all BBS that regularly report them. **KING RAIL:** pair near Pennellville Jul. 4-18 and a single Aug. 26 near Fox Ridge—definitely better than the usual one/two years. July and August shorebirding was a washout, literally, for most of the area—the exceptions were Sylvan and Verona Beaches which had all the max for the season (unless otherwise noted)—Semipalmated Plover 22 Aug. 22, Black-bellied Plover 2 Aug. 3, Ruddy Turnstone nine Aug. 3, Spotted Sandpiper 16 Jul. 25 SP—Onon L, Greater Yellowlegs nine Aug. 12, Lesser Yellowlegs 25 (very low) Aug. 3-6, Red Knot four Aug. 22, Pectoral Sandpiper five (very low) Aug. 3, Baird's Sandpiper two Aug. 31 SPI, Least Sandpiper 21 Aug. 22, Short-billed Dowitcher four (very low) Aug. 22, Stilt Sandpiper three Jul. 24-25 Onon L, Semipalmated Sandpiper 325 Aug. 1, Sanderling 230 Aug. 1 SPI—note the very low numbers of most species, a condition which has not improved with the September flight. Rare shorebirds include **WHIMBREL** Aug. 22 one SPI, **DUNLIN** Jul. 21-22 one Sylvan Beach (record arr date), **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** Aug. 15-16 one Sylvan Beach, **NORTHERN PHALAROPE** Aug. 27 two Sylvan Beach. **LITTLE GULL:** one at SPI Aug. 31, the first of a small fall flight. Common Tern: summer max 180 Aug. 3 Sylvan Beach; only colonies now extant are the island colonies in Oneida L and a small (19 prs) marsh-nesting colony at Carl Island, SP. Black Tern: a disaster species—14 pr

in Deer Creek marshes, seven pr Ramona Beach, four pr Sandy Pond marshes, one pr N Syracuse—at its present rate of decline, will be gone as a breeder in five years.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Common Nighthawk: Syr survey by R. D. Long tallied 33 individuals (very low); there were 75 in '75 for the same survey and that count was considered very much reduced. Chimney Swift: up slightly at Syracuse—126 this year, 86 in '75 (R. E. Long). Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to expand—four pr in L Ontario woodlots, two pr in Clay Swamp, and a pr south of Marcellus.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: down on five of ten BBS; first migrants Jul. 10 ten SP dunes. Eastern Phoebe: despite dire predictions this spring, BBS show nearly normal numbers with some small losses in the more northern surveys. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** two singles reported—May 31-Jun. 1 near Oswego (GAS) and Jun. 8 near Colosse (DWC); there are only two previous regional records. Willow and Alder Flycatchers: both show slight increases from last year's BBS, particularly on the more northern surveys. Least Flycatcher: increased on six of ten BBS (range four-26/BBS). Horned Lark: very, very scarce—only six sites for summer birds for entire region—may soon be lost as a local breeder. Bank Swallow: up slightly on most BBS with max 68 Cicero Center BBS; summer max 2000 (low) Aug. 1 SPI. Barn Swallow: down on seven of ten BBS; Clay Swamp roost active again with 12,000 there Aug. 1. Cliff Swallow: multiple small colonies in n Oswego and n Oneida Co. with breeding max 15 N Wilmurt BBS. Blue Jay: up on six of the ten BBS with five of the six record tallies (18-47/BBS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: early fall flight—first birds Aug. 9 N Pompey Twnshp—two-four/day thereafter thru Aug. House Wren: up strikingly (20-30/BBS) on Ontario Lakeplain BBS. Winter Wren: way up—11 on McKeever BBS, 38 on Old Forge BBS; also reported at Green Lakes State Park in late Jun. and one near Pennellville (an Ontario Lakeplain site) Jul. 25. Long-billed Marsh Wren: max 28 Jun. 13 Deer Creek marshes; however, most local swamps with only four-six/day—effect of swamp spraying for mosquito control? Short-billed Marsh Wren: 11 birds in five separate sites—definitely up over past two years. Mockingbird: singles L Ontario littoral (X3), at Clay, at N Syr, and Syr—expanding. Wood Thrush: record highs for Pulaski BBS (24) and N Wilmurt BBS (34) but down on all other tallies. Swainson's Thrush: scarce (two-five/day) in THP—definitely decreased; first fall migrant Aug. 1 (very early) one SP dunes. Veery: down on seven of ten BBS—max 35 Jun. 6 McKeever BBS. Eastern Bluebird: in G. Church's bluebird survey, 43 eggs produced only 13 fledglings (low productivity for a hole-nesting species); in Oneida (D. W. Ackley) all first nestings broken up by bad weather but eventually 54 nestings banded from the nestbox project there. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 11 Jun. 19 THP—expanding there and in southern highlands also. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: up (three-four/BBS) on the various Adirondack BBS where it is a marginal species; two present Jun. 6 to Jul. 4 at Forest Hill Cemetery in Utica (J. & B. Barker). Cedar Waxwing: invaded in late Jun.—counts of 40-50/day thru late Jul. and all of Aug. Loggerhead Shrike: none for entire summer.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: increased slightly—up on those BBS where it does appear. Solitary Vireo: increased—15-18/Adirondack BBS; but only singles on the THP BBS (Kasoag and Pulaski); first fall migrant Aug. 22 one SP dunes (record arr). Red-eyed Vireo: up on nine of ten BBS—max 126 Old Forge BBS. Warbling Vireo: record high counts for five of ten BBS (six-17/BBS). Golden-winged Warbler: one-eight/day near Remsen, Steuben, Pulaski, N. Wilmurt, Kasoag, and along L Ontario—expanding northward. Brewster's Warbler: one in the THP Jul. 24 indicates some Golden-winged X Blue-winged genetic mix even that far north. Nashville Warbler: four BBS with all time highs—max 19 McKeever BBS. Yellow Warbler: record high (40) for Alder Creek BBS, second highest for Oriskany Falls (32), Cicero Center (52), and Oneida (27) BBS. Black-throated Blue Warbler: reduced in Adirondack tallies—only three-15/BBS there. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 38 on McKeever BBS—previously unreported there; small numbers in THP; also six Jul. 30 in

conifer plantations at Tassel Hill State Forest east of Waterville. Cerulean Warbler: growing scarcer—max only six Camillus Valley Jun. 15 and a mere four at HIGMA Jul. 4. Chestnut-sided Warbler: numbers up on most Adirondack and THP counts (16-49/BBS) with lesser numbers in the southern highlands. Blackpoll Warbler: last spring bird Jun. 3 one Pulaski. Ovenbird: up strongly on Pulaski (16) and McKeever (31) BBS; little change on the other surveys. Mourning Warbler: counts of eight on Kasoag BBS and three on Pulaski BBS could be a mix of very tardy migrants and local birds—low tallies (two-four/day) in THP thereafter—were they hit by the cold weather of late May? Com. Yellowthroat: all time high for Pulaski (66), Cicero Center (39), Oriskany Falls (35), McKeever (39) BBS—four of the ten BBS. Hooded Warbler: 28 singing males in various LOL woodlots (GAS); none reported from the THP localities this year but with the recent surge in lumbering there the colonies should return there in six to ten years. Canada Warbler: scarce on tallies that regularly have them—only one-six/BBS; like Mourning Warbler, it may have been hard hit by the late May cold weather. Fall migrants arrived impressively early, many breaking local records and, in some cases, state records. Were these birds failed breeders permitting early departure from the breeding grounds further north or is the local fieldwork turning up those early migrants that always had been filtering thru but had been undetected heretofore? Tennessee Jul. 24 one Williamstown; Nashville Jul. 19 one Oakwood Cemetery, Syr; Cape May Aug. 15 three SP dunes; Yellow-rumped Aug. 15 one SP dunes; Blackburnian Jul. 18 one SP dunes; Bay-breasted Aug. 1 two Colosse; Blackpoll Aug. 10 one Syr; Mourning Aug. 9 one N Syr; Hooded Aug. 14 one Syr.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: up on Kasoag (11), Oneida (73), and Oriskany Falls (14) BBS—down on most other tallies, however. Northern Oriole: all time high counts at Cicero Center (35), Pulaski (45), and Alder Creek (41) BBS. ORCHARD ORIOLE: imm male Jun. 10 Clay, the only summer record. Common Grackle: numbers reduced on seven of ten BBS—were they destroyed in the blackbird roost control measures undertaken in the south last winter? Scarlet Tanager: apparently hard hit by the May snow at Old Forge—from 22 in '75 to just two in '76. A residue of winter finches sparked hope of local breeding for those species but only a potpourri of late dates resulted. Evening Grosbeak: present at feeders in Fayetteville to Jun. 20, Brewerton to Jun. 23, Manlius to Jun. 26, but no known breeding away from the Adirondacks. Pine Siskin: 30 to Jun. 7 Utica with a pair present there to Aug. 8 (J. & B. Barker), but again no proof of the species breeding there. Red Crossbill: present at Woodgate to Jun. 6 and at Alder Creek Jun. 18, unreported thereafter. American Goldfinch: nesting dates Jul. 1-Aug. 29; 39 nests built, 35 clutches produced, 163 eggs, 120 young hatched, 100 or so fledged (D. W. Crumb). Grassland sparrows—Savannah Sparrow: reduced on seven of the ten BBS (max 24 Oneida BBS); formerly an abundant bird, now rapidly declining. Grasshopper Sparrow: only two individuals for all ten BBS—really very scarce; max for summer five singing birds Syr Airport and four at Williamstown Jun. 18. Henslow's Sparrow: five birds on two of the ten BBS (two in '75); panregionally 21 birds from 11 sites—max six at Bolivar Jun. 4 (K. Coyle). Vesper Sparrow: max six Aug. 1 near Pennellville; one-two/day otherwise; many former sites along L Ontario abandoned but still holding on in the dairy country of northern Oneida Co, the Rome Sand Plains, and the bean country of western Oswego Co. Chipping Sparrow: sharp drop on BBS—down on nine of ten BBS—range four-42/BBS. Swamp Sparrow: summer max 24 Jun. 10 Clay Swamp; however, scarce at Sandy Pond marshes and other L Ontario marshes. Song Sparrow: summer max 85 Oneida BBS yet this is down from the high (99) of last year there.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Summer of 1976 was cool wet and not even summer. Temperatures were below normal and rainfall was way above normal. Highest temperatures were in the low 80° F (26° C) and the lows were mid 60° F (10° C). Sunshine was at best minimal and seemed to shine only on weekdays and not weekends.

Waterfowl nesting success was not as hurt by spring rains as previously supposed. Shorebirds were everywhere due to flooded fields. Cuckoos were scarcer than usual while caterpillar numbers were high in much of the lake plain.

Outstanding observations for the period were as follows: Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Bald Eagle, Whimbrel, Stilt Sandpiper, Least Tern, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, and Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

Localities: ED—El Dorado; LWMA—Lakeview W.M.A.; PRWMA—Perch River W.M.A.; RMPD—Robt. Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robt. Moses State Park; SLR—St. Lawrence River; WHWMA—Wilson Hill W.M.A.

Contributors: Martin Ayers, Matt Brown, Tom L. and Cathy Carrolan, Lee B. Chamberlaine, Charles Devan, Richard Esden, George R. Maxwell, Robt. Sessions, Jim Spencer, Gerald A. Smith, Robt. C. and June Walker, and Joannes A. VanRiet.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: good numbers thru in Adirondacks. Pied-billed Grebe: good numbers thru. Double-crested Cormorant: 68 active nests Little Galloo Isl June 27 (TLC); 14 ED Aug. 21 (TLC); numbers up from previous lows. Great Blue Heron: numbers up in most of Region. **CATTLE EGRET:** 2 near Woodville June 26 (R. Esden). **GREAT EGRET:** 1 WHWMA July 31 (GAS); 1 PRWMA Aug. (C. Devan). Black-crowned Night Heron: 60 active nests Little Galloo Isl June 27 (TLC); others at LWMA and Henderson Hbr thru. Least Bittern: 9 LWMA July 26 (RCW). Am. Bittern: fair numbers thru.

Canada Goose: production at WHWMA up somewhat. Gadwall: 1 female with 4 young Little Galloo Isl June 27 (TLC); 6 ED Aug. 30 (RCW). Pintail: max 6 Massena July 31 (GAS). Green-winged Teal: max 50 ED Aug. 30. Blue-winged Teal: max 220 ED Aug. 29; excellent nesting year. Am. Wigeon: max 18 Massena July 31. Wood Duck: excellent production (LBC). Redhead: 50 Massena-Louisville July 31. Greater Scaup: 1 Little Galloo Isl July 27 (TLC). Oldsquaw: 1 male breeding plumage ED Aug. 10 (TLC). Hooded Merganser: 3 immatures ED Aug. 20. Com. Merganser: 8 Massena-Louisville July 31 (GAS). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 male ED July 19.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 20 near Woodville June 26 (R. Esden). Goshawk: nest in So. Jefferson area 2 young banded (J. Spencer). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Sackets Hbr July 1; 1 Brownville Aug. 22 (TLC). Cooper's Hawk: none. Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Tibbets Pt. July 3. Rough-legged Hawk: 2 present till June 4 RMSP (JAV). **BALD EAGLE:** 1 immature ED Aug. 6 to Aug. 20 (TLC); 1 adult TI Bridge Aug. 18 (GAS); 1 immature RMPD Aug. 24 (GAS). Marsh Hawk: numbers seem up? Osprey: many sightings during period (LBC).

Am. Golden Plover: 17 near Dexter Aug. 20 (GAS); 14 near Dexter Aug. 22 (TLC). Black-bellied Plover: 1 Croil Isl SLR June 4 (JAV); 1 ED Aug. 30 (RCW). Am. Woodcock: good production year (LBC). Com. Snipe: 30 Rome State Rd. Aug. 21. **WHIMBREL:** 1 WHWMA Aug. 1 (GAS). Upland Sandpiper: pair thru Aug. 5; numbers still down. Solitary Sandpiper: 6 Rome State Rd. Aug. 1; 1 Dry Hill Rd. Aug. 2-7; 1 ED Aug. 9. Lesser Yellow-legs: 12 ED Aug. 30. Red Knot: 2 ED Aug. 20 & 21; 1 ED Aug. 30. Pectoral Sandpiper:

3 Rome State Rd. Aug. 1. **STILT SANDPIPER**: 1 ED Aug. 21; 1 ED Aug. 30 (RCW). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7 Croil Isl SLR June 3. Northern Phalarope: 1 ED Aug. 15 & 18, 1 Rome State Rd. Aug. 21.

Great Black-backed Gull: 1 adult ED Aug. 20; 1 adult 1 immature ED Aug. 21. Ring-billed Gull: +1200 Massena-Louisville July 31. Bonaparte's Gull: max 52 ED Aug. 21. **LEAST TERN**: 2 ED Aug. 15 (TLC); region first (field note to editor). Caspian Tern: max 25 ED Aug. 30.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: may be on downward trend? (LBC). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Dry Hill June 3 (RCW)—only report—down? Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Dry Hill June 3; 2 Tug Hill July 11; numbers down? Screech Owl: 2 RMSP June 4. Pileated Woodpecker: 3 Brownville Aug. 22; 2 Adams Ctr. Aug. 23. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 RMSP Aug. 23; only one reported.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: max 140 Massena-Louisville July 31. Least Flycatcher: Massena-Louisville July 31 (GAS). Alder Flycatcher: 1 W. Martinsburg Tug Hill July 4 (TLC). Willow Flycatcher: 1 Watertown June 5 (RCW). Tree Swallow: max 210 July 31. Bank Swallow: 120 July 30. Rough-winged Swallow: 8 Ironsides Isl SLR July 2. Barn Swallow: 140 July 31. Cliff Swallow: none reported? Purple Martin: 120 July 31. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 ED Aug. 18. Winter Wren: 1 ED Aug. 19; 1 ED Aug. 12 probable breeders; 8 ED Aug. 18 probable migrants. **CAROLINA WREN**: 1 male heard & seen Kring Pt State Park SLR Aug. 18 (GAS); new location. Mockingbird: 1 near Henderson Aug. (LBC). Hermit Thrush: 4 Highmarket June 26. Swainson's Thrush: 2 W Martinsburg July 4; 3 Tug Hill July 11. E. Bluebird: pair north of Greig July 14 (M. Ayers-R. Sessions). **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER**: 1 Ogdensburg Aug. 1 (GAS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 20 W Martinsburg July 4 (TLC). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Highmarket June 26; 3 Tug Hill July 11. Cedar Waxwing: good year all over region. Loggerhead Shrike: 4 Massena near Reynolds Aluminum in July—suggests nesting (JAV).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO**: 1 male Cole's Creek St. Lawrence Co. heard and then seen June 6 (GRM); a region first. Solitary Vireo: 1 W Martinsburg July 11 (TLC). Pine Warbler: 1 Ironsides Isl July 2 (TLC). Mourning Warbler: 2 W Martinsburg July 4 (TLC).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: more than previous 2 years (LBC). E. Meadowlark: also seemed to be up? Red-winged Blackbird: usual late Aug. movement to L Ontario marshes. Northern Oriole: definitely up in Henderson area. Cardinal: still expanding—more in Henderson area. Evening Grosbeak: 1 male 1 female W Martinsburg July 10 & 11 (TLC & M. Brown). Purple Finch: sporadic as usual. Am. Goldfinch: in usual numbers. **GRASS-HOPPER SPARROW**: 12 Brownville thru (TLC); 1 Massena-Louisville July 31 (GAS). Swamp Sparrow: one reported during period. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW**: 6 Brownville thru (TLC). Vesper Sparrow: down from previous numbers.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

Observers: ADK—Adirondack Mountain Club; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; CD—Charlie Delehanty; FAT—Federation Adirondack trip June 25-28; WH—William Hayes; BH—Betty Hedges; TM—Ted Mack; M & RMc—Margaret & Robert McKinney; DMc—Dorothy McIlroy;

RM—Ruth Meier; R & MS—Robert & Mary Sheffield; Spec BBS—Speculator Breeding Bird Survey June 17, Fritz Scheider & Dorothy McIlroy; PT—Pat Tabor; PW—Phil Warren; JP—John M. C. Peterson.

Abbreviations: BBS—breeding bird survey; E'town—Elizabethtown; L Cham—Lake Champlain; Ind L—Indian Lake; Mad—Madawaska Pond near Paul Smiths; PS—Paul Smiths; Platts—Plattsburgh; Raq—Raquette Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: not many young produced this year. Perhaps high water destroyed some eggs. Pied-billed Grebe: not reported. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Platts Aug. 29 (PW); plus a few near Four Bros. Is. on L Cham. Green Heron: 1 Ind L July 2 (M&RMc); 2 adults with 2 young Piseco L Aug. 19 (DMc); plus some areas where not noted before indicating an increase. Great Blue Heron: about 73 nests in an active colony at Fish Creek (John Seaman). Least Bittern: 1 Lake Alice June 6 flying and black back clearly seen; 1 Wickham Marsh L Cham July 9 walking at 15 feet (Hal Klein and his ecology class). Canada Goose: 3 Tupper Marsh June 29 (M&RMc). Green-winged Teal: at least one pair Mad. Ring-necked Duck: Jones, Slush, and Toad Ponds near PS, all had breeders as well as Tupper Marsh. Common Goldeneye: 1 female Grass P off Little Clear P Saranac Inn June 10 (TM); 2 females Echo P near Fish Creek June 24 (TM) but no evidence of breeding. Bufflehead: 2 Boreas River near Tahawus early June (TM); 1 Long L June 16 (R&MS). Hooded Merganser: female and 7 young Lewis June 13 (Gloria Dobson) and 3 other records Franklin Co. each with 7 young. Common Merganser: broods fewer and much smaller than normal.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures continue to be seen along L Cham. Sharp-shinned Hawk: several especially near Tupper L. Cooper's Hawk: not reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Westport June 3 (PT); 1 FAT at Mad. Osprey: a pair building a nest Piseco L (DMc); 1 young raised at Bear P near PS; 2 L Placid June 26 (M&RMc); 1 Raq L Aug 11 (BH); 1 FAT at Mad. American Kestrel: 1 Algonquin Mt. June 25 (M&RMc), unusual location. Virginia Rail: several PS to Platts. Semipalmated Plover: 3 Platts Aug 8 to 29 (PW). Ruddy Turnstone: 1 Platts Aug. 12 (PW). Common Snipe: numbers down. Upland Sandpiper: 6 territorial pair Platts (PW); 5 Westport Aug. 28 (GC). Ring-billed Gull: 600 L Placid dump June 6 (ADK); 550 chicks banded 4 Bros Is June 12 (JP). Robert Yunick noted that one bird banded there June 29, 1975 was shot Nov. 1975 in the Dominican Republic. Bonaparte's Gull: 121 Platts Aug. 8 (PW). Black Tern: 3 territorial pair L Alice (PW); 5 Tupper Marsh July 21 (CD).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 1 Long L June 13 (R&MS) is scarce in that area. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Long L June 14 (R&MS) is rare for entire region. Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Essex June 10 (JP); 1 Osgood River Aug, but none at Tupper L where usually present (RM). Whip-poor-will: 1 Essex (Laura Slatkin); 3 Jay June 26 (M&RMc); also noted FAT. Common Nighthawk: noted on FAT; 3 Tupper L June 13 (CD); all summer Ticonderoga. Chimney Swift: numbers down, max 13 FAT (M&RMc). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers all areas with several seen most days even in mountain areas. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 North Elba June 15 (WH). Downy Woodpecker: scarce, not always seen in a day of birding. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: noted at Chubb River (FAT); 1 North Elba June 13 (WH). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: seen at Ferd's Bog (FAT); 1 North Elba June 13 (WH).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: several reported. Willow Flycatcher: 1 saying "fitz-bew". Long L June 15 (R&MS); 1 past 5 years in alders at Ft. Covington May thru July that says "fitz-bew" (Otis T. Waterman). Alder Flycatcher: a few. Rough-winged Swallow: looked for but not reported. Cliff Swallow: good numbers at PS; BH had many at Raq L. Purple Martin: 35 Westport Aug. 7 (GC). Least Flycatcher: abundant. Olive-sided Flycatcher: many; a transient at E'town Aug. 25 (GC). Gray Jay: a few at

usual places. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Wickham Marsh L Cham July 8 (GC). Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 Algonquin Mt. June 25 (M&RMc). Veery: BBS's indicate a drop of about 30%. Mockingbird: 1 South Meadow June 5 (ADK). Eastern Bluebird: several reports; pair and 3 young Tupper L July 23 (CD). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 16 FAT (M&RMc). Cedar Waxwing: 9 Tupper L June 25 with flocks appearing July 13 on (CD).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireo numbers seem consistent with other summer seasons from 3 BBS's. Black-and-white Warbler: numbers are half of last season. Tennessee Warbler: 1 Wright Peak June 25 (M&RMc); 1 transient arrived E'town Aug. 17 (GC). Nashville Warbler: good numbers. Northern Parula Warbler: a few. Yellow Warbler: 14 Spec BBS, exactly twice as many as last year. Magnolia Warbler: good numbers. Yellow-rumped Warbler: common. Blackburnian Warbler: still plentiful. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 30 St. Regis Falls June 13 (TM). Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 Spec BBS; 1 transient E'town Aug. 15 (GC). Blackpoll Warbler: max 16 Wright Peak June 25 (M&RMc). Mourning Warbler: 6 St. Regis Falls June 13 (TM); 8 Ind L July 3 (M&RMc).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Northern Oriole: a few. Rusty Blackbird: fewer than normal. Scarlet Tanager: the late snow had little effect on them. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: numbers half of last year but breeding success was very good. Evening Grosbeak: number of breeders down slightly. Purple Finch: abundant. Red Crossbill: a few PS Aug. Rufous-sided Towhee: a few Tupper L; not to be expected in much of region. **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** 1 carefully studied at Westport Aug. 25 (GC), a rare find. Vesper Sparrow: 2 L Placid June 26 (M&RMc) a very scarce bird that was formerly not that hard to find. Lincoln's Sparrow: fine numbers.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON - MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

After a cold, wet May, June was more comfortable for both birds and birders, with a 1.9 degree F (1 degree C) temperature departure from normal and a +2.37 inch (6.02 cm) of rainfall. Then July and August became less like summer with a -3.5 degree F (1.9° C) temperature departure (46 degrees F (7.8° C) on the 25th) and -0.52 inch (1.32 cm) rainfall for July, and August gave us a -2.2 degree F (1.22° C) temperature drop (45° F (7.2° C) on the 2nd, 44° F (6.7° C) on the 3rd) but a +2.17 inch (5.5 cm) of rainfall (1.80 inch (4.57 cm) on the 9th and 10th). "The cold fronts that passed through in July and August brought the season's first wave of migrants to Jenny Lake, especially vireos, warblers, and flycatchers." (RPY).

There were 18 Breeding Bird Surveys in our area with 13 reporting. Some of the totals have been quoted throughout the report.

The highlight of the season was a Greater Shearwater on June 14 which was a first for our area. Other interesting reports were: the Great Blue Heron colony returned to nest at West Glenville; 1 adult and 2 immature Bald Eagles; very few sandpipers (which could be due to high water levels all summer); Least Terns and Black Skimmers; a Red-headed Woodpecker and 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the BBS; there appeared to be an increase of Mockingbirds with 3 as far north as Argyle; a trip to our area by Sally Hoyt Spofford gave us our only shrike sighting; and a Brewster's Warbler sighted in Whitebeck Grove in New Scotland.

Abbreviations: ADBC—Alan DeVoe Bird Club; BBS—Breeding Bird Survey; CC—Columbia Co.; D-A-B—Dial a Bird (518-377-9600); EG—East Greenbush; FR—Five Rivers Environmental Education Center; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club Field trip; HR—Hudson River; JL—Jenny Lake; NB—New Baltimore; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; PFC—Paul F. Connor; Rens—Rensselaer; RMCC—Robert McCullough; RPG—Richard P. Guthrie; RPY—Robert P. Yunick; VF—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area; WGlen—West Glenville; WS—Walt Sabin; WG—William Gorman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: June 20 CC (ADBC), thru Mariaville L. Pied-billed Grebe: thru CC (ADBC). GREATER SHEARWATER: 1 June 14 HR near New Baltimore flying north (RPG), June 17 north of Burlington, Vt., died June 19. For details see *The Kingbird*, Vol. XXVI, No. 3, page 148. Double-crested Cormorant: June 14, 20 NB (RPG). Great Blue Heron: thru, increased numbers nested thru July 28 WGlen (RMCC), 2 BBS. Green Heron: thru, 12 BBS. Little Blue Heron: 1 adult Old Chatham (D-A-B). Cattle Egret: 1 Aug. 14 Rotterdam (RPG), 3 July 23 VF (D-A-B). Great Egret: Aug. 29 CC (ADBC), 1 Aug. 6 WGlen (RMCC). Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 FR (D-A-B), 1 Aug. 10 NWW (WS). Least Bittern: 3 June 27 (all calling) Rens (RPG). Glossy Ibis: 5 July 30 HR at Albany (D-A-B), last reported in Slingerlands 1974. Canada Goose: pair nested (2 adults, 6 young) FR, flock of 35 June 3 CC (ADBC), 28-31 in Aug. FR (WS). Brant: 3 June 18 HR Albany (RPG). Mallard: thru, BBS 9. Black Duck: thru CC (ADBC), BBS 1. Pintail: 1 Aug. 8 HR Albany (RPG). Green-winged Teal: July and Aug. CC (ADBC). Blue-winged Teal 20 thru HR Coeymans (RPG). Wood Duck: thru CC (ADBC), BBS. 7 Com. Merganser: BBS 3, only report.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: CC (ADBC). Hawks: Sharp-shinned: 1 Aug. 21 Reist Sanctuary (HMBC), BBS 1. Cooper's: Aug. CC (ADBC), 1 adult Rt. 29 east of Saratoga Springs (RPY). Red-tailed: thru (mob), BBS 10. Red-shouldered: thru July and Aug CC (ADBC). Broad-winged: 2 thru Schodack Center (PFC), 1 July 31 Mayfield (HMBC), BBS 2. BALD EAGLE: 1 adult June 5 FR (HMBC), 1 imm. June 29 Schoharie Co (WS), 1 imm. Aug. 30 Duaneburg (RPG). Marsh: 1 Aug. 28 JL (RPY), 1 July 18 and 1 Aug 6 Cox-sackie (RPG). Osprey: July 1 and 10 Aug 18 Castleton (ADBC), 1 Aug 16 Kinderhook L. (RPG). Am. Kestrel: thru, BBS 21. Ruffed Grouse: July and Aug. CC (ADBC). Bobwhite: 1 June 5 FR (HMBC). Ring-necked Pheasant: thru (four reports), BBS 6. Turkey: 1 gobbler in June Hillsdale CC (ADBC). Virginia Rail: 1 July 31 Mayfield (HMBC), 1 Aug. 29 Rens (PFC). Com. Gallinule: thru (including 2 young) CC (ADBC), 7 June 27 and 1 Aug. 29 Rens (PFC). Am. Woodcock: 1 Aug. 24 FR (WS), BBS 1. Com. Snipe: 1 with gallinules June 3, 17 CC (ADBC). Sandpipers: Upland: 7 June 30, 15 July Coxsackie (RPG), BBS 5. Spotted: 2 June 5 FR (HMBC), July and Aug. CC (ADBC), BBS 2. Solitary: thru CC (ADBC). Gulls: only Herring report, thru CC (ADBC) and no Ring-billed. LEAST TERN: 1 Aug 10. HR NB (RPG). BLACK SKIMMER: 1 Aug. 6 HR Coeymans (RPG).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: thru (mob), BBS 3. Owls: Screech: 1 calling June 5 FR (HMBC), July and Aug. CC (ADBC), thru NB (RPG) and EG (WG). Great Horned: thru CC (ADBC), NB (RPG), Aug. 16, 21 EG (WG), BBS 1. Barred: at least 1 young and 1 adult late June JL (RPY). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: thru CC (ADBC), few other reports, "4 inch (10.2 cm) snowfall May 19 seemed to have devastated local population at JL. Not one at feeders during June and July." (RPY), BBS 2. Woodpeckers: Pileated: 1 June 5 FR (HMBC), thru CC (ADBC), nested and young fledged in late July JL (RPY), BBS 5. RED-HEADED: BBS 1. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: BBS 2.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: thru, BBS 8. Flycatchers: Yellow-bellied: only 1 report, 1 Aug. 29 in group of warblers JL (RPY). Willow: 1 June 5 FR (HMBC), 4 June 27 Rens and 1 EG (PFC), BBS 6. Alder: 1 July 7 Warrensburg and 1 July 29 L. Lu-zerne (RPG), BBS 8. Least: thru (mob), BBS 60. Olive-sided: 1 July 31 Mayfield (HMBC). Horned Lark: June 15, 20 CC (ADBC), BBS 1. Swallows: Bank: only report BBS 71.

Rough-winged: 2 June 5 FR (HMBC), Aug. 29 CC (ADBC), pair nesting July 6 Warrensburg (RPG), BBS 3. Cliff: 1 July 31 Mayfield (HMBC), Aug. 2 CC (ADBC), BBS 5. Purple Martin: thru CC (ADBC), 1 June 5 FR (HMBC), BBS 1. White-breasted Nuthatch: thru CC (ADBC) and EG (WG), 4 Aug. 21 Reist Sanctuary (HMBC), "not very abundant at JL this year, only 1 banded" (RPY), BBS 21. Red-breasted Nuthatch: "good yield of young JL, 12 banded" (RPY), BBS 2. Brown Creeper: few reports, thru CC (ADBC), Aug. 29 EG (WG), 1 juv. banded July 24 and 2 ad in what appeared to be courtship display for second brood JL (RPY), none on BBS. Winter Wren: only report BBS 1. Carolina Wren: 3 thru NB (RPG), another only report. Long-billed Marsh Wren: June 16-18, 29 and July 1, 3, 10 CC (ADBC), 9 June 27 and 2 Aug. 29 Rens (PFC). Mockingbird: thru, BBS 28. Hermit Thrush: only report BBS 5. Veery: thru CC (ADBC), daily in June Schodack Center (PFC), BBS 60. E. Bluebird: several July 31 Mayfield (nested here) (HMBC), 1 pair nested W Glen (RMCC), BBS 4. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: only report BBS 3. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 Aug. 27 in flock of warblers JL "2 days after Aug. 25 given by Bull" (RPY). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Aug. 14 Old Chatham CC (ADBC), 1 nesting Esperance (D-A-B). Loggerhead Shrike: Aug. 22 near Greenwich (Sally Hoyt Spofford).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: 2 June 5 FR (HMBC), July and Aug. CC (ADBC), BBS 11. Solitary: 2 Aug. 29 JL (RPY), BBS 1. Warbling: thru CC (ADBC), 2 Aug. 21 Reist S. (HMBC), BBS 36. Warblers: Black-and-white: thru CC (ADBC), 3-4 July 23 and 4 Aug. 27 in warbler groups JL (RPY), BBS 13. Golden-winged: 1 June 5 FR (HMBC), thru CC (ADBC), BBS 2. Blue-winged: thru CC (ADBC), BBS 3. BREWSTER'S: 1 June 5 Whitbeck Grove, Nature Conservancy, New Scotland (Bob Marx *et al.*). Tennessee: 1 Aug. 25 JL (RPY), 1 singing July 6 Warrensburg (RPG). Nashville: 1 July 23 and Aug. 27 JL (RPY). N. Parula: BBS 9, Greene Co. Warblers: Magnolia: Aug. 26-29 Old Chatham (ADBC), 2-3 July 23, 4 Aug. 27, 8 Aug. 28 JL (RPY), BBS 3. Black-throated Blue: 5 Aug. 27 JL (RPY), BBS 3. Yellow-rumped: Aug. 18-31 Castleton (ADBC), 3 Aug. 28 JL (RPY), BBS 2. Black-throated Green: 2-3 July 23, 8 Aug. 27 and 10 on 28, 29 JL (RPY), BBS 9. Blackburnian: June 18 and Aug. 18 CC (ADBC), 2 July 23 and 6 Aug. 28 JL (RPY), BBS 1. Bay-breasted: 8 Aug. 27 and 10 Aug. 28, 29 JL (RPY). Blackpoll: thru CC (ADBC), 1 June 2 Schodack Center (PFC), 1 June 9 Catskill (D-A-B). Prairie: thru CC (ADBC), 1 June 10 singing NB (RPG), 9 (1 in Helderbergs) (D-A-B), BBS 5. Ovenbird: June 5 FR (HMBC), July and Aug. CC (ADBC), BBS 38. N. Waterthrush: June 18 Greene Co. (ADBC), BBS 2. Louisiana Waterthrush: BBS 4 E. Berne. Mourning: 1 July 6 Warrensburg (RPG). Wilson's: thru CC (ADBC), 1 Aug. 28 JL (RPY). Canada: June 18 Greene Co. (ADBC), 1 Aug. 21 Reist S. (HMBC), BBS 1 E. Berne.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: thru CC (ADBC), June 5 FR (HMBC), 70+ (small flocks) Aug. 29 Rens (PFC), BBS 80. N. Oriole: 3 pair nested W Glen (RMCC), June 5 FR (HMBC), thru CC (ADBC) and EG (WG), 2 Aug. 21 Reist S. (HMBC), BBS 128. Indigo Bunting: thru CC (ADBC), BBS 96. Evening Grosbeak: only report 3 Argyle BBS. House Finch: thru Scotia, CC, Schodack Center and Albany. Red Crossbill: heard 2-3 times in flight mid-July JL (RPY), 1 female June 29 Berne (K. Able).

Sparrows: Savannah: thru CC (ADBC), BBS 26. Grasshopper: June and July CC (ADBC), BBS 4. Henslow's: 1 June 5 FR (HMBC), nesting there (D-A-B). Vesper: thru CC (ADBC), BBS 3. Dark-eyed Junco: only 2 reports, abundant crop of young with first young fledged June 20 (early) JL (RPY), BBS 2 Greene Co. White-crowned: July 31 Mayfield (HMBC), Aug. 29 CC (ADBC), normal numbers and nested at JL with 1 ad and 3 young banded (RPY), BBS 15. Swamp: 17 June 27 Rens (RPG), BBS 6.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Rainfall throughout the region varied as to locations and thunderstorm activity. The weather station at Mohonk Lake reported 3 in. (7.6 cm) in June and 4.6 in. (11.7 cm) for July. 5.75 in. (14.6 cm) fell during the first 15 days of August. Weather was cooler than usual. The average for July was 68.1° F (20.1° C), 2° F (1.1° C) below the 80 year average of 70.3° F (21.3° C) at Mohonk Lake.

Birders seemed to be more active than usual this summer with some unusually fine records reported. Short-billed Marsh Wren, Acadian Flycatcher, and Kentucky Warbler were turned up in Orange Co., and breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in Westchester. Hurricane Belle was a disappointment in the number of exotics it brought, but the numbers were more than made up for by the Yellow-nosed Albatross observed off Croton Point. Warblers made early appearances in Dutchess again this year, and there were some interesting records of northern birds that summered. Two census runs were made thru different territories in the higher reaches of Harriman State Park looking for Canadian type birds. The results are included in the report.

Contributors and observers cited: Martin Borko, Eugene Brown, Robert F. Deed, Fred Hough, William Howe, Jim and Mary Key, Al Merritt, Ken Niven, John Orth, Eleanor Pink, Benton Seguin, Jim Stapleton, John Tramontano.

Abbreviations: Harriman Park Census—HPC-1 June 11, HPC-2 June 13; USMA—U.S. Military Academy, West Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Rondout Res. Jul. 14 (KN). **YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS:** 1 adult obs at about 30 ft. off Croton Point by Berna Weissman and William Howe at 1:45 p.m. Aug. 10, the day after Hurricane Belle hit the region. Double-crested Cormorant: present all summer in small numbers off Croton Pt; 1 Cornwall Bay Jul. 26, and another Jul. 28 at Conn's Hook, Highland Falls. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** singles reported in Jun. and Aug. from Cornwall Bay (BS); another at Goshen Jul. 29. Great Egret: in singles and pairs thru region and period. Snowy Egret: also thru period in better numbers than the former species. **LOUISIANA HERON:** 1 imm Croton Pt. Aug. 2-8 (WH). Black-crowned Night Heron: only report 2 Croton Pt. Aug. 2-5. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** 2 ad Croton Pt. Jun. 10 (WH). **GLOSSY IBIS:** 3, Aug. 8 near Marlborough (BS). Mute Swan: inc in the northern part; 1 pr. with 2 imm. at Iona Is. and another pair at Ft. Montgomery with 8 imm; only 1 of the latter survived the snapping turtles. Brant: 31 on Hudson off Dunderberg Mt. Jun. 3 (ET). Snow Goose: 1 with Brant on Hudson off Dunderberg Jun. 3 (ET). Green-winged Teal: rare in summer; 1 in Dutch Jun. 8 and another Croton Pt. Aug. 29. American Wigeon: 1 male Iona Is. Jun. 15; 14 Cornwall Bay Aug. 29. Northern Shoveler: always rare, 2 Cornwall Bay Aug. 14. Lesser Scaup: 1 male Croton Pt. Jul. 14. **COMMON GOLDENEYE:** 1 female on Hudson off Iona Is. Jun. 15-19 (ET). Common Merganser: 4 females Croton Pt. late May thru Jun. 10; a family of 5 on Rondout Res. Jul. 14 (KN).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: a nest observed near White L. Sull May 14 contained 1 egg May 20 (MB). **GOSHAWK:** pair nesting on HPC-1, nest not found as observer was too busy defending himself from the attacking adults; this is the third year that territorial adults have been observed in that area (EB). Bald Eagle: 1 ad south of Ellenville, Ulst May 25 (Robert Dirig). Osprey: usually unreported in summer; several scattered records thru period and region; no evidence of breeding. Ruffed Grouse: numbers continue low. Semipalmated Plover: the usual few migrants dur Aug. at Croton Pt. and Cornwall Bay. Black-bellied Plover: 1 or 2 at Croton Pt. and Cornwall Bay in early Aug. Ruddy Turn-

stone: 10 Cornwall Bay Aug. 7-10. **WHIMBREL**: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 7 (AM). Upland Sandpiper: 1 with 3 imm near Pine Bush Jun. 19; another Hamptonburgh Aug. 25 (BS). Solitary Sandpiper: 1st Croton Pt. Jul. 12. 1 or 2 present there thru period. Red Knot: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 5. Inc to 3 by Aug. 7. Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 6. Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 Aug. 7 Cornwall Bay; 1 Croton Pt. Aug. 29, 30. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 75 Croton Pt. Aug. 24. Sanderling: 5 Cornwall Bay Aug. 7. Laughing Gull: arr Mid-Hudson Region Aug. 2 max 25 Croton Pt. Aug. 11. Bonaparte's Gull: 1st Aug. 7 Cornwall Bay, and again there Aug. 28-31. Common Tern: singles at Cornwall Bay Aug. 17 and Jun. 23. **LEAST TERN**: 1st Croton Pt. Aug. 3-5; 3 there Aug. 10; 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 10. **ROYAL TERN**: 1 Croton Pt. Aug. 10 in winter plumage after Hurricane Belle. **CASPIAN TERN**: 3 Cornwall Bay Aug. 8. Black Skimmer: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 10 (mob).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos: both species quite scarce. Barn Owl: 1 ad with 2 imm Washingtonville Jun. 19. Whip-poor-will: 1 calling at 9 a.m. Jun. 6 at Long Pond, USMA. Common Nighthawk: usual residents; max movement reported over Nyack; several hundred on Aug. 24 and again on Aug. 25 (RD).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Red Oaks Mill Aug. 23. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: at least 1 and maybe 2 on location on the Orange-Sullivan border at Basher Kill Jul. 17-20 (BS); nest found in Deep Hollow, Dutch Jun. 19, and another nest on Tower Hill Rd., Dutch Jul. 3. Willow Flycatcher: at least 3 pr at Croton Pt. thru period. Alder Flycatcher: 1 singing continuously at Tarrytown Res. Jun. 18; not seen thereafter. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1st at Wawarsing Aug. 15; again on Aug. 21 at Tamarack Sw. Dutch. Horned Lark: 1 ad Jul. 2 at Briarcliff, Dutch. Tree Swallow: usual early Jul. movement; max 500, Dutch, Aug. 14. Bank Swallow: left Cornwall Bay by Aug. 6. Cliff Swallow: new colony near Washingtonville Jun. 12; more than 20 migrants obs Slide Mt. Aug. 31 (JT). Purple Martin: a new colony near Bullville Jun. 13; 5 nest sites under obs in Dutch thru period; another thriving colony found at Rosendale. **RAVEN**: 1 Mohonk Jun. 20 (JS). Fish Crow: usual residents; birds of the spring at Highland Falls inc to 5 (probably a family) by Aug. 2. Remained thru Sept. 5; 10 at Wilbur Blvd, Po'kpsie (MJK). Red-breasted Nuthatch: migrants at Po'kpsie area last week of Aug.; 7 imm in Norway Spruce at Briarcliff Jun. 16; 2 ad feeding 1 fledged young there Jul. 18; migrants at Croton Pt. and Pleasantville last week of Aug. Brown Creeper: 6 birds and a nest with 6 eggs at Kensico Res Jun. 20; nest empty Jul. 18 (WH); 2 on HPC-1 and HPC-2. Winter Wren: 3 pr heard regularly in Deep Hollow Dutch thru period; 2 on HPC-1. Carolina Wren: continues to increase in all areas. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN**: first report for Oran, 1 in song Aug. 19. Hamptonburgh near Goshen line; 2 there Aug. 31 (BS). Hermit Thrush: 14 on HPC-1; 5 on HPC-2. Eastern Bluebird: best year yet for nest box project of Waterman Bird Club in Dutch; 66 nesting pairs with 35 successful; 4 nests with eggs as late as Aug. 1. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: more than usual in late summer; rarely obs after Jun. **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**: 2 ad with 5 fledged young at Kensico Res Jun. 6; adults still bringing food to nest on Jul. 18; probably a double brood.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: a few more than usual. Solitary Vireo: 8 on HPC-1 and 2 on HPC-2. Worm-eating Warbler: several obs dur nesting period at Mohonk L (JS). Lawrence's Warbler: a male mated to a Blue-wing at Pleasantville; carrying food to nest on Jun. 7. Tennessee Warbler: 1st Aug. 19; 2 or 3 daily from then on. Nashville Warbler: 1st Aug. 14 Tamarack Sw. Magnolia Warbler: 1st Aug. 19 thru period. Cape May Warbler: 1st Aug. 20-31 Pleasant Valley; max 12 Pleasantville Aug. 31. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 3 Croton Pt. Aug. 30 were very early. Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 Jul. 5, and 3 Aug. 31 at Wawarsing. Cerulean Warbler: 1 Basher Kill Jun. 3 (BS). Blackburnian Warbler: 1 singing near Silver Mine, Harriman Pk. Jul. 3, 2 ad feeding 1 imm there Jul. 8 (ET); 13 on HPC-1 and 4 on HPC-2; always in high hemlocks. Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 Aug. 15, 1 Aug. 26-31, Pleasant Valley. Blackpoll Warbler: 1st Aug. 24-31. Pine Warbler: 1 Mohonk L Jun. 10 (JS). Prairie Warbler: in 3 localities along Mine Rd. USMA in early Jun. N. Waterthrush: an ag-

gressive territorial bird singing at Butler Sanct. West on Jun. 20. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** 1 in full song moving south along the Basher Kill Aug. 21 (BS). Mourning Warbler: 1st Aug. 14-15 Pleasant Valley; another Jun. 6-7 at Skidmore Sanct. was a spring migrant. Yellow-breasted Chat: only report, 1 Mine Rd. Jun. 6. Wilson's Warbler: 1st Aug. 28, Red Oaks Mill. Canada Warbler: 1 ad Thompson Pd. Jul. 2; 2 on HPC-1 and 4 on HPC-2; more summer records than usual; 3 females and 1 male at Butler Sanct. Jun. 20 (WH); first migrants Dutch Aug. 14.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Indigo Bunting: numbers up thru region. Purple Finch: 2 on HPC-1 and 5 on HPC-2. House Finch: continues to increase esp east of Hudson R. Pine Siskin: 1 Pleasantville Jun. 5; several at feeders in Monticello area thru period. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a singing male at Croton Pt. Jun. 10 was not seen thereafter. Vesper Sparrow: Waterman Club is keeping records on every bird due to scarcity; 4 reports in Jul. Dutchess Co. Dark-eyed Junco: singles on HPC-1 and HPC-2.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

ANTHONY J. LAURO and BARBARA J. SPENCER

The mean temperature for the three months of June, July and August was 73.2° F, 74.8° F, and 74.4° F respectively and the rainfall was 2.78, 1.42 and 6.52 inches. The seemingly high rainfall in August was caused mainly by Hurricane Belle but this total added to the other months total equals 10.72 inches of rain, or less than half last summer's record 22.4 inches for the same period.

The summer season, with the exception of Hurricane Belle, was rather uneventful; which is akin to saying, "with the exception of getting run over by a tank it was a quiet day." The hurricane is discussed at length elsewhere in this issue (see page 184).

The various breeding bird censuses taken in the area reflected no alarming declines although mention was made in each report of the loss of nesting habitat due to developments and road construction. Two interesting increases were noted on the south shore: on August 28 Paul Gillen reported 57 Am. Oystercatchers in one group on Middle Line Island in South Oyster Bay and in late August the writer (AJL) saw 10 Louisiana Herons on Tobay Pond. Such numbers are unprecedented. The most interesting find of the breeding bird censuses was that of a pair of Winter Wrens with two recently fledged young at Connetquot River State Park; a first for Long Island. Another interesting breeding record occurred on Staten Island when a pair of Pine Siskins also with two recently fledged young were found, which appears to be the first coastal record for the region.

Despite extensive searching, no nest was found for the Chuck-will's-widow at Oak Beach although a singing bird was present from June 1 to June 15.

JUNE COUNTS: The Northern Nassau count reported 118 species and 11,366 individuals with an overall stability of numbers when assessed from a three year period of data collection. Species indicating a decline were Green Herons, Least Terns, and Bank Swallows. The reason for this decline is reduction of nesting habitat. A steady decline in number of Rufous-sided Towhees for the three year period was also noted. Red-tailed Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Mockingbirds, Common Yellowthroats and Yellow Warblers were the biggest gainers. Also of note was the finding of two nests of Red-breasted Nuthatches.

The Central Suffolk County count reported 135 species totaling 16,909 birds which was about 2,000 more than reported last year. 113 of these species are known breeders or probable breeders in the area, 7 might breed and 15 definitely do not. The most uncommon of the known breeders or probable breeders were Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Turkey, Upland Sandpiper, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Rough-winged Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-throated Green Warbler, Orchard Oriole and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. 156 species have been recorded in two years. The most numerous species in the area were Red-winged Blackbird, Common Tern, Herring Gull, Common Grackle, House Sparrow, Mourning Dove and Am. Robin. Birds showing an increase in numbers were Clapper Rail, Am. Oystercatcher, Spotted Sandpiper, most resident warblers, particularly the Prairie Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Purple Finch, Chipping Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. Species in lower numbers than last year were Black Duck, Piping Plover, Roseate Tern, Screech Owl, Whip-poor-will, American Redstart, Indigo Bunting and Grasshopper Sparrow. Egrets and herons were distributed throughout the area but no nesting colony was found.

The Captree Count was reduced in coverage because of lack of birders and the area covered was basically Connetquot River State Park, Heckscher State Park and the estate area of Islip Township. The count reached a total of 3,742 individuals of 94 species. The highlight of the count was a pair of Winter Wrens with young (see above). 14 Red Crossbills were found in Connetquot but no evidence of breeding was noted. Only 2 pair of E. Bluebirds were present which is low for Connetquot. Six Willow Flycatchers were found in the count area along with 3 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and 12 species of warblers.

The second Sea Cliff count which censused birds in a one mile square area found the species count down (65 in 1975, 41 in 1976) and the total numbers down (1542 in 1975 and 1006 in 1976). As in 1975, the most noteworthy individual was an Acadian Flycatcher. Some loss of habitat was noted. Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Crow, American Robin, Starling, Cardinal and House Finch were the losers and Song Sparrow and Common Grackle the gainers. Perhaps after a few years, a trend will appear which will make year to year comparisons meaningful.

The shorebirds at North Line Island were reduced both in species and numbers although this area continued to be the local hot spot for waders. A pair of Gull-billed Terns was found breeding on Great Island, adjacent to North Line Island, but the one chick that hatched disappeared one week after initial discovery.

PELAGIC TRIPS TO COX'S LEDGE:

June 12 (THD, PAB, FGS, *et al.*) 1 Manx, 16 Sooty, 9 Greater, 1 Cory's Shearwaters, 10 Wilson's Storm-petrels, 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 2 Royal Terns.

July 16 (J. Witzeman, S & K Mejlinger) 30 Sooty, 75 Greater, 1 Manx Shearwaters, 40 Wilson's Storm-petrels.

August 14 (THD, RWS, TWB, J. Gee, B & JT) 2 Sooty, 3 Greater, 56 Cory's Shearwaters, 23 Wilson's Storm-petrels.

Observers: JA—Jim Ash; JC—Joe Costa; FB—Fran Buckley; PAB—Paul A. Buckley; TWB—Thomas W. Burke; THD—Thomas H. Davis; AJL—Anthony J. Lauro; BL—Brook Lauro; ROP—Robert O. Paxton; PL—Paul Lehman; GSR—Gilbert S. Raynor.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: several summered in the area, 1 at Fire Island Inlet (AJL), 1 June 6 Orient, 2 Aug. 10 Shinnecock. Pied-billed Grebe: brood of 4 half-grown young with adults, July 31, Poxabogue Pond (GSR). Cory's Shearwater: 15 Aug. 10 Shinnecock Bay (mob). Leach's Storm-petrels, Wilson's Storm-petrels, several of each and the Cory's Shearwaters were seen in Shinnecock Bay on Aug. 10 as result of Hurricane Belle. (see details this issue).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: GOSHAWK: Aug. 6 Great Gull Island (mob) rare in summer. Peregrine Falcon: a pair was seen on August 3 in midtown Manhattan. A harbinger of a return to the good old days when these birds nested across the Hudson River on the Palisades and hunted in the city? (TWB). Am. Oystercatcher: 57 on Middle Line Island August 28 (P. Gillen). Am. Golden Plover: early migrant July 20 at Oak Beach Marsh (ROP). Whimbrel: 10 Aug. 7 Moriches Inlet (GSR) 22 North Line Island Aug. 17 (mob). Lesser Yellowlegs: large numbers this year, 300 July 20 at Oak Beach Marsh (ROP). **CURLEW SANDPIPER:** 1 JBWR Aug. 28 to Sept. 3 (N. Wagerik, JA, THD *et al.*). Stilt Sandpiper: arr. Jun. 27 2 at Oak Beach Marsh (ROP). Western Sandpiper: 3 July 31 Mecox Bay (GSR). Marbled Godwit: 2 July 26 to Aug. 15 North Line Island (mob), 2 Aug. 18 to Aug. 21 JBWR (mob). 1 Aug. 14 Sagaponack (GSR). Hudsonian Godwit: 3 Aug. 7 and 2 Aug. 14 Moriches Inlet (GSR). **BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Jun. 29 JBWR (J. Bode *et al.*), photographed. Ruff: female Aug. 30, Pilgrim State Hospital (AJL, F. File). Avocet: 1 imm Aug. 15-16 Tobay (JC *et al.*), 2 imm Aug. 29 Pilgrim State Hospital (R. Laskowsky, AJL, BL). Wilson's Phalarope: female Jun. 17-20 JBWR (JA, *et al.*), Jul. 20 Oak Beach Marsh (ROP), July 25 to Aug. 22 JBWR (mob), 2 imm Aug. 30 Pilgrim State Hospital (AJL, F. File). Northern Phalarope: Jun. 19 Moriches Inlet (T. Van't Hof). Black-headed Gull: 1 adult Jul. 10-26 Great Kills Park, Staten Island, 1 adult South Line Island Aug. 14 (mob). This gull is becoming somewhat regular in the region at any season. Royal Tern: 1 Jun. 15 Breezy Point (JA), 1 Jun. 19 Westhampton Beach (L. Perry), 2 Aug. 13 and 3 Aug. 14 Shinnecock (GSR). Caspian Tern: 1 Jul. 20 JBWR (J. Wagerik), 1 Aug. 24 JBWR (JA). **BRIDLED TERN:** an immature bird was seen in Shinnecock Canal after Hurricane Belle (PAB, FB, RWS, PL, AJL). **SANDWICH TERN:** an adult was seen by (ROP) at Moriches Inlet on Aug. 11 after Hurricane Belle.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: a pair of Barn Owls hatched 5 young at Hoyt Farm Park (R. Giffen). (GSR) reported only 4 Common Nighthawks in his area to Aug. 22. Numbers seem to be off this year. Red-headed Woodpecker: late migrants were seen on Jun. 10 at Jones Beach and Jun. 11 at Alley Pond Park by (L. Schore).

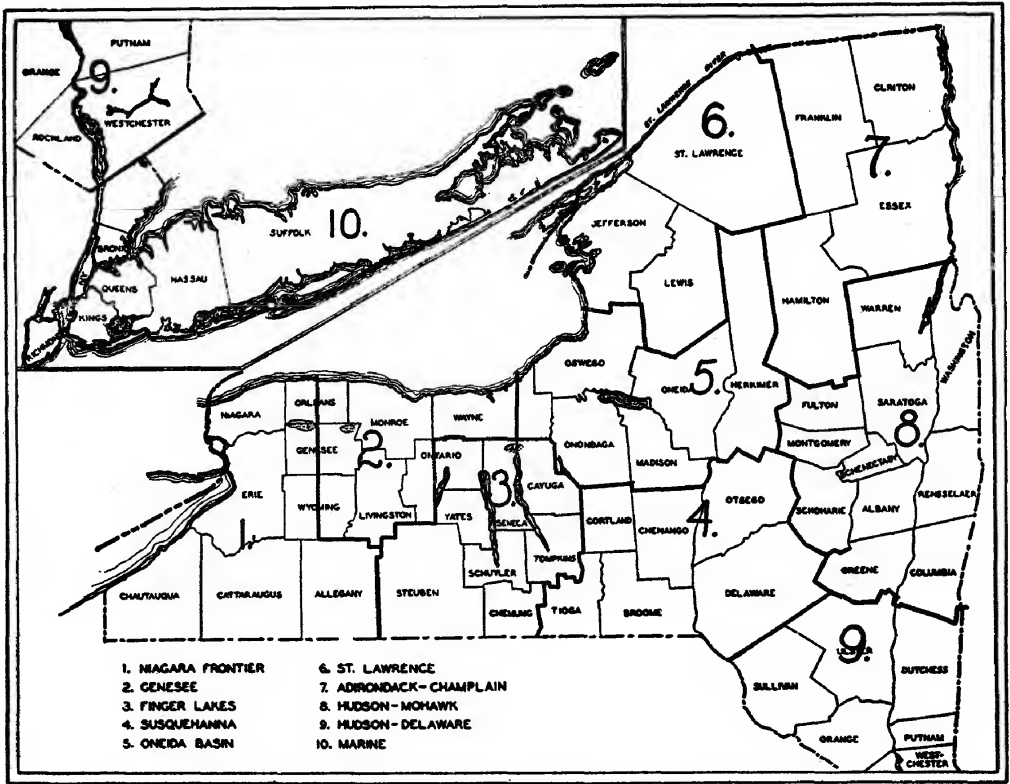
FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: WINTER WREN: 2 adults and fledged young Jun. 19 Connetquot State Park (THD, ROP, GT, TWB, D. Deagan). First L.I. breeding record.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 Jun. 5, July 8 and July 17 Manorville, (GSR) reports this bird present sporadically every summer but no evidence of breeding. Prothonotary Warbler: singing male Jun. 5 Shu Swamp, Mil Neck (B. Spencer), late migrant not seen again. 1 Jun. 5 Flanders (GSR). Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 July 29, Upton (GSR).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: PINE SISKIN: pair with 2 recently fledged young Jun. 19 New Dorp Staten Island (W. & N. Siebenheller). First coastal record. European Goldfinch: 1 at feeder in Brookhaven July 18 to Aug. 31 (GSR), escape? White-throated Sparrow: lingering birds to July 8 Woodhaven (THD), to mid-Jun. at JBWR (JA).

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REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is December 7

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